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Iraq

BABIL considered a German paper's report that Iraq is employing nuclear scientists from the former USSR as "part of the hired media campaigns against Iraq." An article by the paper's political editor criticized a JANA statement comparing President Bush to Saddam. "The political line in Libya is known to be individualistic and is closely linked to the mercurial, impetuous head of the regime who, on many occasions, appears to be unaware of what he is saying," the article maintained. BABIL predicted that Libya will give in on everything connected to Lockerbie, and charged al-Qadhdhafi, portrayed as imitating the activities of the Iraqi president, with "living out a complex whose name is Saddam Husayn." Elsewhere, the Iraqi trade minister arrived in Tripoli and praised bilateral relations, JANA reported. A Baghdad radio commentary criticized a recent article by the Israeli chief of staff, who said that Iraq has many missiles and chemical warheads remaining.

Jordan

Officials briefed the JORDAN TIMES about King Husayn's upcoming visit to Washington, saying that the king's talks with President Bush "will send a clear message to the Gulf Arab states, which have refused to reconcile with Amman over its Gulf war stand, that Washington does not support their boycott of Jordan." Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir, leader of the Unionist Democratic Grouping, wrote an article in AL-DUSTUR criticizing recent remarks by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz. In it, al-Sha'ir contrasted the Jordanian and Iraqi versions of democracy, and urged Iraqi leaders to hold elections without delay. The prime minister said that the government "intends to suggest" that the conscription law "be suspended, and not revoked, for a period of time to be designated by the cabinet," Jordan radio reported.

Israel

The delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks returned from Washington, Tel Aviv radio reported. The negotiator to the "not exactly encouraging" talks with Syria said, "I do not know whether it led to any substantive progress, but we had a dialogue." The negotiator who handles talks with both Jordan and the Palestinians said the talks with Jordan were "quite relaxed;" as for the Palestinians, "although the atmosphere was tenser, we talked and we will continue to talk." "Political sources" expressed "satisfaction" at U.S. criticism of the Palestinian self-government plan, 'AL HAMISHMAR disclosed. Shamir's media adviser rejected a Syrian plan to postpone further talks until after the Israeli Knesset elections, Jerusalem radio noted.

Lebanon

The cabinet met in extraordinary session and passed a number of measures amid the country's worsening economic crisis, Voice of Lebanon reported. Security forces are working against violations of price freezes on some commodities, the radio continued. A general strike throughout the country was held to protest conditions, Beirut radio added.

Libya

The London paper SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI interviewed 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, an opposition member and former foreign minister, who spoke about his movement's prospects. The same paper published his group's nine-point policy statement.

Yemen

A 3 March shoot-out at a presidential office was nonpolitical in nature, according to an "informed source" cited by the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

Sri Lanka

An operation against LTTE bases concluded with the death of over 100 LTTE personnel, Colombo radio reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Al-'Allaf Comments as Delegates Hold Last Round

JN0403180492 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Washington, 4 Feb (SANA)—Arab delegations to the peace talks and the Israeli side have held their seventh and last meeting in the fourth round of talks which began on 24 February and will end today.

Prior to today's meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the talks, expressed regret over the fact that no progress was made in this round as a result of the intransigent Israeli position.

He said: Today is the last day in this round. I do not think that only today we will achieve what we have been unable to achieve since the beginning.

Al-'Allaf added that he is supposed to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today to brief him on what took place during this round, in light of the fact that during the talks with all Arab delegations the Israeli side hindered the achievement of any real progress in the peace process, and caused this round to end with no progress having been made.

No Progress Comes as 'No Surprise'

JN0503083992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Washington—As expected, the fourth round of peace talks between the Arab delegations and the Israeli side ended in Washington last night without achieving any progress.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has stated that since the beginning of the peace process with the Madrid conference four months ago, and throughout the four rounds of peace talks, Israel has shown no desire to make the process successful. Israel, he said, views this process as only a cover for its actions and the facts it creates daily in the occupied Arab territories.

In a press conference following the conclusion of the fourth round of the peace talks, al-'Allaf said: It was no surprise that this round should end without achieving progress.

He said: This outcome was inevitable for many reasons, among which is the fact that Israel is busy with an election campaign in which the candidates are competing to show who is the more fanatic and intransigent.

Al-'Allaf added: Even before the ongoing election campaign and since the Madrid conference, Israel has not shown any real interest or commitment to make the peace process successful.

Al-'Allaf said: After four months of the Madrid conference and four rounds of peace talks, no one can claim that the Middle East has gotten closer, not even a single inch, to peace.

He added: On the contrary, Israel continues to escalate its aggressive acts and expansionist measures both inside and outside the occupied Arab territories. It builds new settlements, enlarges existing ones, and intensifies its suppression of and terrorism against the Arab population in these territories.

Al-'Allaf said: It is very clear that the Israeli Government is using the peace process as camouflage to turn the world's attention away from the new fait accompli it creates every day in the occupied Arab territories.

He added: However, we will not allow Israel to use this peace process as a cover for its expansionist and aggressive policies in the region.

Asked if U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—who will meet with the heads of delegations taking part in the talks on the conclusion of the current round today—will be asked to intervene to end the deadlock in the peace process, in view of the fact that the United States is one of the peace conference cosponsors, al-'Allaf said: Mr. Baker is watching, with confidence, the peace process developments. I am confident that he is as concerned as we are about the fact that no progress has been achieved. I do not think the matter is up to us as parties, especially on this last day of this round. I believe that his invitation to the heads of delegations to meet with him today is connected to this issue.

Al-'Allaf said he is convinced the conference cosponsors will eventually do what they have promised to do if they feel that the peace process is threatened.

Al-'Allaf said: As far as we are concerned, we will thoroughly assess what has happened, not in this round of talks only, but since the Madrid conference and up to now before we decide on future steps.

Asked if it would not be better to suspend the peace talks until after the Israeli elections, especially in view of the additional negative effect which he said these elections will have to prevent progress in these talks, al-'Allaf said: This may be a good idea, especially since holding new, futile rounds will weaken confidence in the peace process.

He said: Holding new rounds of talks before these elections is possible only if the Israeli side pledges to the peace conference cosponsors that it is prepared to work seriously to allow for progress in these talks.

Secretary of State James Baker last night received Muwaffaq al- 'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks. Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador to Washington, attended.

During the meeting, Mr. Baker listened to the viewpoints of the head of the Syrian Arab delegation regarding the course of the fourth round of talks, which concluded yesterday.

Al-'Allaf briefed Mr. Baker on the details of the talks, saying he regrets that this round ended, once again, without achieving any progress.

Secretary Baker stressed that the conference cosponsors remain committed to the peace process.

They also exchanged viewpoints on the future steps needed to continue the efforts within the context of the peace process.

On Venue of Talks

LN0503083092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2103 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Washington—As expected, the fourth round of peace talks between the Arab delegations and the Israeli side ended in Washington today without achieving any progress.

Following today's meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, stated that the date for the next round of talks will be decided through consultations between the peace conference cosponsors and the concerned parties.

He said that during today's meeting, the Israeli side raised the issue of moving the venue of the talks. He said: We have reaffirmed our position in this regard; namely, that emphasis should be placed on the talks themselves and not the venue. There is no reason to move the venue from Washington before achieving any tangible results.

Al-'Allaf said: The Israeli side said that it does not want to return to the U.S. capital.

Al-'Allaf said that in today's meetings, the Syrian delegation presented a full review of the legal aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 242 confirming that this resolution does not give Israel the right to keep any part of the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 aggression.

Lebanese Delegate on Israel's 'Threatening Tone'

NC0503211092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral talks, declined to say that the bilateral talks have reached a dead end. What he did say was: We are determined to continue the discussions until we achieve some results. Our Washington correspondent al-Hayik filed this report on Ambassador Shammas' news conference tonight:

[Begin al-Hayik recording] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas disclosed tonight that he sensed a threatening tone from the Israelis in the last two sessions of talks. He pointed out that Israel's emphasis on security concerns and the Syrian presence in Lebanon are merely excuses for future military operations. Shammas said that Hizballah and the other Lebanese nationalist parties have an inalienable right to resist the occupation. He added: We will not, however, become the captives or victims of the hateful hostage-taking process that exhausted Lebanon and held it captive to the hostage issue.

Shammas held a news conference at 1730 Beirut time at the Washington Hotel to discuss the outcome of this round of talks with the Israelis. At the news conference, Shammas said that Yosi Hadas, a leader of the Israeli delegation, described the Syrian presence in Lebanon as a hostile action. This was the first time in the history of the 16-year Syrian presence in Lebanon, Shammas said, that the Israelis have used such a term. Shammas added: I told our interlocutor that such a description of the Syrian presence could have serious consequences. I asked him to consult with experts in international law on the serious repercussions their stand could have.

[Shammas] [words indistinct] to carry out any military action if they deem it necessary to do so in light of their own assessment, not because the objective circumstances indicate a need. These are Israeli tactics [words indistinct] we cannot tell; we have to believe them. But for them actually to carry this out, they want to keep the Lebanese card and the deteriorating situation in the south in their own hands. They have not acknowledged the land-for-peace principle to date. This is the stumbling block in all ongoing talks.

[Unidentified correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Shammas] We are adopting measures to calm the situation in our own way. The Israelis should know this. They have the capability to know this. Israel, however, does not care to make room for the legitimate Lebanese authorities to succeed in their efforts. [end recording]

Sees 'Dialogue of the Deaf'

NC0503073592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The fourth round of Middle East bilateral talks have ended without agreement on the date and venue of the next round of negotiations. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, has described the latest round of talks as a dialogue of the deaf. He asserted that no progress has been made, nor will any progress be made unless UN Security Council Resolution 425 is implemented. He said that Israel still has not acknowledged that it is an occupation force in the south. He noted that the Israeli delegation described the Syrian presence as hostile to Israel. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegates Discuss Fourth Round

JN0503200192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Excerpts] After seven days of bilateral negotiations in Washington, the fourth round of talks ended yesterday without realizing any noteworthy progress even after the separate meetings between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the heads of the delegations to get acquainted with their views on the time and venue of the next round of negotiations. This meeting was described by U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler as not the end of the line, and if the delegations failed to reach an agreement on venue and time of the next round, then the interference of U.S. Secretary of State Baker and his Russian counterpart would be possible, pointing out that the negotiations are progressing in a positive manner. [passage omitted]

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, has announced that there are still basic disagreements, and that Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation has called on the U.S. secretary of state to intervene to bridge the gap between the two parties.

[Begins al-Mu'ashshir recording, in English] We have basic disagreements but that's why we are here to negotiate. And of course, we will come back to the next round. Dr. al-Majali this morning did urge Secretary Baker to try and bridge the gap between the two sides. As I've said, we are not here asking for interference in the sense of pressure; we are asking for the United States, being the driving force behind these negotiations, to actively try to bridge the gap between the two positions. [end recording]

At the same time, the Palestinian delegation sees the opposite of the U.S. Administration's view that things are proceeding in a positive manner.

[Begins Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi recording, in English] What Mr. Baker sees as progress from the outside, may not be exactly what others see, what other delegations see as progress, what pleases them. But we measure progress in concrete terms, not in just abstract political terms, because we maintain that our commitment continues to be to the human substance, to the human condition at home, and unless this peace process brings about concrete measures and steps in order to alleviate suffering and pain, then we don't consider ourselves having made any progress. [end recording]

Jordanians on Changing Venue of Talks

JN0403211492 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Murid Hammad report from Washington]

[Text] The Jordanian and Israeli delegations a few minutes ago ended a meeting which centered mainly on an agenda and other issues of substance.

Delegation head Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali briefed reporters on the meeting and his meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

[Begin al-Majali recording] We had three events this morning. We had a general meeting of the two tracks where the Israeli delegation presented the idea of venue and asking for changing of venue. And we responded by saying that the venue not to be changed before we have progress on the bilateral talks. And so far, it seems that we did not have enough progress to change the venue, and our governments are going to evaluate these rounds and make a decision about submitting a list for change of venue if a change to take place.

Then we have our general track meeting and we continued discussing the items on either side agenda, exploring more and more in some of these points, but still we have not... we cannot say that we are in agreement. There is still profound difference between the two delegations on the principle of things. The principle of implementation of [UN Resolutions] 242, 338, and the principle of the freezing of settlements.

The third event is our delegation meeting with Secretary Baker where we briefed him on what was done in this round, and hopefully that the sponsors will use their driving force in the coming weeks and round to get more into substance. He assured us that America is behind the peace process and they are still a driving force toward that. [end recording]

A general meeting between the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations was held earlier today to discuss procedural issues, such as the venue of the next round of talks. The meeting also discussed an Israeli request to move the talks to or near the Middle East.

[Begin recording: Jordanian delegation spokesman Marwan al-Mu'ashshir] We've just concluded the general meeting with the Israeli and the Palestinian sides to discuss venue, the time of the next round, and such procedural matters. The Israeli side still insists on moving the talks out of Washington. We've told the Israeli side that we still think that without progress this is difficult to do. At the same time we have forwarded the Israeli request to the Jordanian Government [word indistinct]. It is up to the Jordanian Government to respond to the cosponsors on its decision on venue. [end recording]

It is not yet clear when a decision will be taken on the time and the venue of the next round of talks, but obviously this decision will have to be taken by the concerned governments and the cosponsors if they decide to intervene.

'Ashrawi Hails U.S. Position on Loan Guarantees

JN0503190792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has lauded the recent U.S. position on the loan guarantees to Israel, and said that when Washington commits itself to this position it is respecting its status as a peace mediator.

[Begins 'Ashrawi recording in English] The government is not only continuing and escalating the settlement activity, it is actually, systematically, escalating its human rights violations, and targeting a captive population. So I think at a certain point that Shamir government will render the whole peace process totally irrelevant and meaningless because it is systematically draining it of any substance, of any meaning. We feel that the U.S. has always had a policy that is against settlement activity. They viewed it as illegal. Now they say it's an obstacle to peace, and I think, to us, what is significant is that for the first time we are seeing a willingness to implement American policy.

Frankly speaking, the Palestinians back home are extremely skeptical because so far what they've seen from the peace process is a very heavy toll on human lives and rights. We have continued to be captive, to be held captive by the Israelis for their own political ends. And what is, to me, what is very sinister and cruel is the fact that they are manipulating a human condition for their own political ends. And this is very serious. [end recording]

Further Remarks by Chief Negotiators

JN0503062692 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks in Washington ended the fourth round of peace negotiations with their Israeli counterparts last night. The head of Jordan's team, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, told reporters that during the latest round of talks discussions tackled some issues included in the agenda. However, he said, there was no agreement on the basics of negotiations which focus on implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and tackling the Jewish settlement issue. Dr. al-Majali said the door is still open for further meetings to arrive at an agenda agreeable to both sides.

The head of Palestinian delegation, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, speaking to reporters at the end of the fourth round of talks, said Palestinians would evaluate the whole peace process.

Syria's chief negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf also spoke to reporters after the conclusion of the fourth round of peace talks. He floated the idea of suspending Middle East peace talks until after Israel's June 23d elections. Al-'Allaf said the Israeli Government was not interested, it seems, in the success of the peace process and preferred, on the contrary, a fruitless round in order not to anger its extremely fanatic radical right supporters. He accused Israel of wasting time and using the talks as camouflage for a policy of creeping annexation in the occupied territories.

Later, the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held separate meetings with the heads of Arab and Israeli teams for discussions on the venue and date of the next round of peace talks.

'Possible Rift' in Palestinian Delegation Seen

TA0503134792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 92 p A5

[Report by Ori Nir, special correspondent in Washington]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources in Washington yesterday reported scurrying and a possible rift among members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. According to the sources, the Palestinian Communist Party representatives to the talks were yesterday instructed by their superiors to quit the delegation because the Palestinian delegation heads had violated an agreement between the various factions. They claimed an agreement had been reached by which the chief Palestinian delegates would submit no additional official documents until Israel agreed to freeze settlement activities in the territories.

Ignoring the agreement, the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks submitted an amended proposal for PISGA [Palestinian interim self-government arrangements], the sources said. The alleged rift in the Palestinian delegation did not manifest itself in any practical way, however, because the current round of talks ended yesterday as scheduled.

Yesterday's news about the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] landslide victory in the elections to the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce caused great anxiety among members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington. Palestinian delegates said that the victory should be perceived as stark evidence of the growing power of Palestinian elements opposing the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Considers King Husayn Letter on Future Ties

JN0603085592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 92 p 1

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] A very important letter concerning His Majesty King Husayn's upcoming visit to five European countries is now being studied by the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis. The urgent letter was sent by Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

According to Palestinian sources in Amman the Palestinian leadership is paying special attention to the contents of this letter, which is believed to tackle aspects of future relations between Jordan and Palestine within the framework of a confederation.

The sources informed AL-DUSTUR that the Palestinian leadership will send an Executive Committee member, presumably Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, to inform senior Jordanian officials of its reply within 24 hours, before His Majesty King Husayn begins his European tour.

These sources also said: The Palestinian reply to the letter will be positive and in a manner that will strengthen the distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. Given its sincere concern about coordination with Jordan and its strong adherence to future relations between Jordan and Palestine, the Palestinian leadership has carefully studied the letter over the last two days.

Islamic List Wins Ramallah Chamber Elections

NC0403221992 London MBC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Mahir Shalabi report from Jerusalem]

[Text] The results of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce elections, which saw a large turnout by traders and shopkeepers, have come as a surprise even to the Islamic List itself, which won 10 of 11 seats. The Islamic List was competing for the seats with the Nationalist List, a coalition of PLO factions, as well as six independent candidates, none of whom were elected.

Before the ballot counting yesterday parades were organized in support of the two sides. The Islamic movement's supporters carried Korans and marched in the streets of the city.

The PLO will find it hard to give an explanation for what happened, particularly in Ramallah, the stronghold of its factions. Add to this the fact that many of the traders are Christians. Such a strong blow to the PLO could be construed as a protest by voters against the PLO factions' candidates or against the regional political process. It also could be natural for the traders to support only the right-wing trend that currently exists in the occupied territories.

It is essential to add that the arrogance which some officials in the Nationalist List demonstrated, along with their shortcomings in fully carrying out their duties, could be the reasons that they suffered this defeat.

Intifadah Call No. 80 Rejects 'Normalization'

LD0403110492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Call No. 80 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call; no voice is raised above the voice of the intifadah, the voice of the PLO. Call No. 80; call of dignity and steadfastness issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, the state of Palestine.

O masses of the brave intifadah, O strugglers for freedom and independence, O those who are confronting the ugliest aggression that has been witnessed in modern history, O those who have crushed forces of occupation and units of its settlers through the continuation of your glorious intifadah through determination and perseverance. Thanks to your sacrifices and high spirit of struggle, your victorious intifadah has been continuing as it now embarks on its 52d month, thus emphasizing that the end of the brave intifadah will be achieved only when the goals of our people have been attained, the foremost of which is its right to return to the homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent national state under the PLO's leadership.

The state of hysteria and the exhaustion of patience which have recently befallen the forces of occupation, which directed their oppressive and barbaric practices against all the sons of our people, are proof of the degree of despair that the occupation authorities have reached and of their failure to implement their policy which aims at putting an end to the intifadah of our people or even a halt to its escalation.

O sons of our people: The Zionist occupier, and despite its claims proclaiming its desire for peace to prevail in the region, has pursued acts of oppression, terrorism, and suppression against our people. This is seen in the implementation of the policy of deportation, mass arrests, the torture of Palestinian prisoners inside prisons of occupation, which has now reached the stage of the cold-blooded killing of our prisoners, as was the case of martyr hero Mustafa al-'Akkawi; the continued confiscation of land, and the intensification of settlements on Palestinian soil, especially in our holy Jerusalem.

At the same time that the occupation forces escalated their repression against the sons of our people in the occupied territories, the hand of Zionist terrorism stretched to the sons of our people in the Lebanese camps, as well as the sons of the Lebanese people, and it killed the martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi along with his child and wife.

All these Zionist practices are undeniable proof of the enemy's lack of desire to establish a just peace in the region, and that it aims to gain time, impose the fait accompli on our people, and give legitimacy to occupation. It has remained clear that what Israel wants, in cooperation with the United States through its so-called mediation, is represented by the normalization of relations between the Arab states and Israel and under the aegis of the continuation of occupation and its repressive practices.

In light of this the Unified National Leadership calls on the masses of our people not to respond to the Israeli calls for normalization, to rally around the stand of the PLO in the struggle to end occupation, to focus on this aim, and not to enter in any bargaining on the sidelines to revive the policy of improving living conditions, which the United States tried to implement with the plan of George Shultz, former U.S. secretary of state, and which was defeated by the glorious intifadah of our people.

The Unified National Leadership affirms the definite desire of our people to achieve a just peace based on the right of our people to return, self-determination, and the establishment of a national independent state on the national territory under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of our people. In this respect the Unified National Leadership calls on all the sons of our people and its national forces to struggle and rally around the following basic causes:

1. To halt all settlement activities immediately.

2. To implement the Geneva Conventions and charters on the occupied regions and to abrogate all Zionist orders, whether military or mandatory, imposed on our people.

3. To provide international protection for our masses against Israeli oppression operations and to safeguard human rights in the occupied territory.

4. To support and back the intifadah and provide all appropriate means for attaining the goals of our people concerning freedom and independence. We call on the international community to intervene immediately to force the Zionist occupiers to heed international legality and implement its principles on the occupied territories of Palestine.

The Unified National Leadership emphasizes the right of our people to confront the treacherous occupation by using all available means, a right which is stipulated for us by all UN charters and lists. In this connection the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah salutes the heroic operation which our heroes carried out when they stormed an enemy camp in Wadi 'Ara, killing a number of soldiers and capturing their weapons. The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah calls on all strike forces and masses of our people to escalate the struggle against the occupation and to concentrate all militant potential to strike against the military forces of the enemy and units of its terrorist settlers.

The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah calls on all strike force groups to comply with rules of firm restraint regarding the liquidation of agents and to refer to organizational reference books before taking any decision regarding the physical liquidation of any agent.

The criticism by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah against the liquidation operation of the three agents in Kufr Ra'i does not, in any way whatsoever, mean an acquittal of the agents, but it does emphasize the shining and civilized aspect of our people and of its people, a matter that prompts us to be meticulous and just on such sensitive issues.

O our struggling masses: The issue that most threatens the cause of our people during this stage is the frantic expansionist settlement [activity] which seems as if it is a race against time. This expansion threatens the land and the people and aims at deporting our people from its land. While one witnesses an increased campaign throughout the world to halt the settlements, the leaders of the enemy, with the Israeli and terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir at their forefront, emphasize that the settlements will continue and will not stop for even a single day.

Confronted with this reality and the real threat represented by the settlements to uproot our people from their land, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah renews its call for our brave workers to boycott work inside Israeli settlements, and calls on strike forces in all positions to confront the phenomenon of working inside the settlements, to implement the Palestinian position, and to ban work in these settlements

At the same time, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah emphasizes the need for the agreement of all national forces and effective groups on a clear and comprehensive plan of development to create new job opportunities for these workers.

On the occasion of the onset of the blessed month of Ramadan, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah extends its warmest congratulations and wishes to our people inside the occupied land and in exile, and to all Arab and Islamic peoples. It emphasizes the jihad meanings of this blessed month, the most important of which is jihad and effective resistance against occupation represented by its instrument of oppression and herds of its settlers.

The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah appeals to traders to consider the current economic situation of our people. It also calls on the masses of our people to make the blessed month of Ramadan a month for family solidarity, especially families of martyrs, the injured, and prisoners. It also appeals to people's committees and charities to do likewise.

As a result of the massive damage suffered by farmers following the extremely bad weather witnessed in the occupied land, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah appeals to all Arab and international bodies to extend aid to these farmers and compensate them in a way that would help them work and be steadfast inside their land. It also calls on local development institutions to draw up a clear and practical plan to support these farmers, and it emphasizes that the rumors to the effect that the occupation forces are interested in aiding the farmers are purely groundless. The occupation is interested in destroying local agricultural production and not vice versa.

On this occasion the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah salutes all citizens who assisted the victims and who helped reopen the streets that were blocked by snow. It encourages our masses to expand their assistance and to rely on themselves in dealing with such matters. It also calls for the formation of people's emergency committees in cities, towns, and camps of the state of Palestine.

O masses of our heroic people, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah calls on you to implement the following instructions:

1. To continue opening commercial shops daily from the morning until 1300; and to reopen them after breaking the fast in the evening throughout the blessed month of Ramadan.

2. 8 March is International Women's Day. The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah hails the distinguished role of the Palestinian woman regarding the intifadah, and calls on all cadres and national women's associations to mark this day by staging united festivities, to work to unite women's efforts and consolidate their social and militant role.

3. On 9 March there should be a total strike on the occasion of the 52d month of the intifadah.

4. 12 March should be a special escalation day in solidarity with our heroes who are inside Israeli prisons, during which sit-ins are to be staged inside the Red Cross headquarters.

5. 16 March is Teachers Day. On this occasion the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah hails the role of Palestinian teachers and calls on the educational body to hold seminars to discuss the state of education in our country to develop and advance the educational march.

6. 21 March is the anniversary of the Battle of Karamah [clash between Palestinian guerrillas and Israelis in Jordan] and the anniversary of Mother's Day. The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah calls for considering this day a day for intensifying operations against occupation soldiers and herds of settlers throughout the homeland; and also a day for visiting mothers of martyrs, prisoners, and the injured of sons of the people.

7. 26 March is a day for a general strike on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the signing of the treacherous Camp David accords.

8. 30 March is Land Day, a day for a distinguished escalation of the struggle during which our strike forces in all areas are requested to attack patrol units of the enemy and cars of settlements and during which Palestinian flags should be hoisted to express our adherence to our land.

9. On 8, 12, and 20 March everything should open throughout the day.

Signed by: the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Government Changes, Policies

LD0503181292 Algiers APS in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 5 Mar (APS)—Higher State Council [HSC] Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf has stated that change remains the most important of our priorities, beginning with a reform of the Constitution, the revision of practices and methods of work, and a change of the government itself.

In an interview published in today's edition of AL-SALAM, Mr. Boudiaf said that we had accepted the proposals included in the government reshuffle because it is impossible to change everything in one or even a few months. We work outside the system, and consequently we cannot know its hidden aspects or its men within such a limited period.

The HSC chairman also discussed various other issues including the restoration of the state's authority, the slogan of the national rally, the democratic process, economic revival, the future establishment of the Greater Maghreb, and Western Sahara.

As for the security situation and the restoration of the state's authority, Mr. Boudiaf indicated that [words indistinct] the democratic experience had witnessed a dangerous deviation when the country stood on the edge of the abyss following every Friday prayer. Thank God the country's security and calm have started to prevail during recent weeks.

The chairman emphasized his desire to provide realistic conditions for the citizens' tranquillity and emotional welfare by guaranteeing a steady supply of food and working against soaring prices fueled by greedy speculators. The appropriate measures have been taken in this connection at the levels of the Interior and Trade Ministries. As for the slogan of the national rally and its ideological and political content, as well as its human content, Mr. Boudiaf said that while the rally's call concerns all citizens, it is addressed in particular to Algerian youth, for two reasons: First, they are the great majority, and second, the future, above all else, is their cause. It is a political organization which stems from the idea that there is a great (?political) vacuum and that the existing authority has no base or extension among the ranks of the people. Thus there must be a base of struggle which contributes to finding real solutions to the problems of the country.

He made clear that the adjective "national" in its name means that socialism is finished and that with this came the end of the direction that had dominated the country for a long period. From all this, all that is left is nationalism as a framework of thought and action which will get the country out of its crisis and revive it after suppression.

The HSC chairman emphasized that "the primary objective of the rally is to find a framework for action and contact with the apex of authority, which has expressed its full readiness to consider the various existing problems and to work together with those who are directly concerned with these problems to reach the best solutions and to define new horizons for the future of Algeria."

Mr. Boudiaf is of the opinion that the ideas of the rally in its initial form still need more clarification and that they are thinking about setting up a committee to [words indistinct] thinking which, during the month of Ramadan, will undertake to look into the issue in all its aspects. He pointed out that this rally should depend on itself and should not expect assistance from the state. It should be built on sound foundations of struggle.

As for the democratic experiment in Algeria, Mr. Boudiaf said that democracy does not mean establishing parties with state funds. On this basis we have placed at the top of the list of our preoccupations concerning the normalization of the situation through the regaining of the state's prestige and authority, and the retrieving of the state's properties, that no party has the right to these properties, and that no party should expect a grant from the state within this framework. But if a party wants to rent premises for its headquarters it can do so; quite frankly, this means that anyone who wants to practice politics can do so by usingh his own private means now that multiplicity is approved.

As for the economic revival plan with which the prime minister was entrusted, Mr. Boudiaf said that the government has done its best to lay down a revival plan, and we should give ourselves three months at least, and then we will see. The plan can be considered transitional, too. It gives priority to the issues of supply, construction, and employment because these sectors have suffered damage from the country's financial difficulties. These difficulties have begun to ease following the start of fresh borrowing.

As for the prospects of building a Greater Arab Maghreb, Mr. Boudiaf reaffirmed that Maghreban unity is an old goal and that it is noteworthy that the first three years of the Arab Maghreb Union have not achieved important tangible results, perhaps due to weak confidence and the continuation of the Western Sahara obstacle, for which a speedy solution should be found. He added that the Arab Maghreb is the natural framework of Algeria, which constitutes, together with Morocco, the solid foundation for the building of the edifice of Maghreban unity, hence the need for close relations and understanding between the two countries. Perhaps a condition for this is solving the Western Sahara issue in the shortest possible time.

With regard to the question of Western Sahara, Mr. Boudiaf pointed out that his opinion in the mid-seventies when this question was raised was that Algeria should distance itself from it and should not tie this issue to the issue of the demarcation of borders between it and Morocco, according to the Evian accord. At that time, he said, I did not relish the idea of one of the two countries assisting armed groups to attack the other. But today I am a statesman who has inherited a situation resulting from the implementation of a specific years-long policy. I have to take into consideration this situation and preserve Algeria's word and role in the region.

He expressed the hope that the efforts of the Maghreban countries will become coordinated in order to increase the position and role of the Arab Maghreb region to the level of its economic and human resources and its important geopolitical location so that it can deal face to face with the blocs surrounding it, especially the EEC.

Commenting on Algeria's position on the Arab level, the HSC chairman noted that the problem of the Arab world can be summarized as a rift between poor and rich. The rich should have real feelings of solidarity with the poor; everybody should harbor Arab sentiments characterized by understanding [word indistinct]. Maybe the emotional support voiced for Iraq during the Gulf war could be attributed to the hatred felt against the rich who do not care about the suffering of the poor.

He also noted another factor represented by the weakness of the Arab League: The Arab world is unable to equip itself with a regional organization which has strong moral authority, and it is called upon to overcome this weakness as soon as possible so as to become a firm moral authority respected by states and one to whom they would refer their differences and disputes.

As for Algeria, Mr. Boudiaf said: "It is now going through a special phase, and those in the Arab arena who are expecting something from it should take this situation into account. Despite all this, however, it will make any effort, even to a small degree, to heal the rift and restore Arab solidarity.

On the purposes behind the tour of the Algerian foreign minister to the Gulf, Mr. Boudiaf stated: "Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi met his Arab counterparts in Marrakech in recent weeks, and the brothers from the Gulf especially expressed their desire to know more about recent events in Algeria." On this occasion the foreign minister explained to his hosts Algeria's need for assistance to help it overcome its current financial difficulties. They promised to look into the matter, and in the coming days Algeria is expected to welcome envoys from Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Commenting on relations between Algeria and Italy, the HSC chairman said that Italy was the first to understand the situation in Algeria and it continues to have a special interest in our country. Algeria received from Rome a loan of $7 billion, of which we have so far used only 30 percent, and Rome has continued its financial support because it knows it is gaining a distinguished position within Algeria's market.

Mr. Boudiaf continued: "It was thanks to such an initiative that other European countries like Belgium and Spain were recently visited by Ali Haroun [HSC member], who found in them both a full understanding of the situation in Algeria and an appropriate readiness to help our country overcome the current difficult situation. In this respect, Mr. Boudiaf asserted that America had kept itself at some distance. Redha Malek went there to explain the latest developments in our country to U.S. officials. As you are aware, primary elections are under way over there, and officials are rather busy with the domestic situation.

Concluding his interview with the paper, Mr. Boudiaf spoke again about the situation in the country, saying: "I am not a prisoner of anyone." However, we, notwithstanding our positions in the government, in the HSC, or any other institution, are all prisoners of the situation." He added: "We are trying to control the situation and to overcome its repercussions as quickly as possible; we are faced with an acute financial, economic, and social crisis as well as a political one brought about by a lack of funds, which is the outcome of the democratic experience, particularly following the cancelation of the legislative elections."

He pointedly asserted the harmony in the HSC and added that the main preoccupation of its members is to lift the country out of the current crisis.

He appealed to all Algerians to understand the seriousness of the situation, and he called on everyone to understand their responsibility in helping the country out of its current crisis.

Calls for Elections Within Two Years

LD0503125892 Algiers APS in English 1126 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (APS)—President of the Higher State Committee (HCE) Mohamed Boudiaf noted in an interview to AL-AHRAM Egyptian daily his return to Algeria was decided after having been contacted by the chiefs of Army and other institutions that asked him to go back to Algeria because the situation is serious. I think, he said, I was right to take such a decision for the situation resumed its normal course. Boudiaf reasserted his conviction and his faith in democracy he advocated since independence, a democracy founded on healthy bases that does not allow the creation of parties founded on religion. Religion is for God and the motherland is for all. I think democracy is the only solution for Algeria. Moreover, Boudiaf stressed the difference between the former power and this one does not depend on no party. He asserted that political parties will have to ensure their self-financing and take part in the national activity within the respect of the new juncture.

In this regard, Boudiaf called on all parties to prepare themselves to the presidential and legislative elections and the return of the democratic process that will take place, as he wished, before two years. In this context, he voiced his hope to see these elections freely occurring. Hence, he added, the Algerian people will have a legislative power that really represents them and will solve their problems. Boudiaf noted the first objective of the HCE is the reestablishment of the state authority and its respect by nationals. He pointed out the number of persons arrested does not exceed 5,000 persons out of 25 millions. The number of killed persons during the last events is estimated at 52 whose half was among the security forces. Moreover, Boudiaf stressed the economic machinery in Algeria was in a situation of a total paralysis. Therefore, one had to rapidly react to get out of this multidimensional crisis such as unemployment and debt. Our current policy, Boudiaf added, consists in benefiting from maximum capabilities of Algeria, planning and elaborating important programmes to cope with the significant economic and social problems.

On the other hand, Boudiaf tackled the necessity to reestablish confidence between the power and the people in order to urge out community abroad to invest in their country. It is important, he said, to reestablish political stability for there will not be investment without stability. As for the foreign policy, Boudiaf recalled the fundamental principles based on solidarity between Third-World peoples, the Arab world, the achievement of unity of North African countries and the non interference within home affairs. He also noted that the foreign policy will be certainly more positive in the sense that it will be in the interest of Algeria. We are interested in home affairs for they are the reflection of the foreign policy. We will work within the limit of our possibilities so our foreign policy can be stronger and more acting thanks to reciprocal interests and the assistance necessary to the economic recovery.

Regarding the Gulf crisis and relations with Iran and Iraq, Boudiaf deplored the situation and the sufferings of the Iraqi people, the Iraqo-Iranian war and the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq contributed to this situation and the weakening of the Arab League which induced the intervention of foreign forces. The Arab world did not benefit at all from this war. As for Algeria's relations with Iran, Boudiaf deplored the fact that Iranian currents pretend to forget Algeria's role in the settlement of some Iranian problems. They also pretend to forget the Algerian mediation between Iraq and Iran during which Algeria lost its minister of foreign affairs. He also added, by reason of the position they took vis-vis the events that recently occurred in Algeria and the blind campaign they led against our country, we asked the Iranian ambassador to get back to Iran and recalled ours. In this regard, it is necessary to reboost the role of the Arab League and consolidate its authority. He also called to extend cooperation between Arab countries either rich or poor and the setting up of a mode of support to Arab countries that undergo pressures or encounter economic problems.

While tackling the question of Western Sahara, Boudiaf noted it is a political question. 17 years after, this conflict has no positive effect on Algeria nor Morocco. The HCE works in order to find out a solution to this conflict for it is important to find it and I think that all parties showed a good will in order to reach an issue in the interest of the Arab Maghreb and the region.

Furthermore, President Boudiaf recalled Egypt's position, under the presidency of Mubarak, towards Algeria and that of Arab countries noting "they are honourable positions". I am optimistic regarding the future of the Algero-Egyptian relations. We will endeavour, as far as we are concerned, to reinforce them in the interest of the two countries. While recalling his memories of Egypt, Boudiaf said: "Egypt is the first Arab country I visited on July 2 [19]54 and at that time "Sawt al-Arab" [Voice of the Arabs] radio had an important role in the taking in charge of Arab questions particularly the Algerian one. Egypt was the first Arab countries that brought support and arms to the Algerian revolution although Egypt was not an oil producer and did not have receipts. Egypt's position towards the Algerian revolution deserves all our esteem and thanks."

Further Reaction to Ban on FIS

Islamic Group's Goals Noted

LD0503192492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Factions of the Islamic tendency—Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun, founder of the League of the Islamic Call; Benyoucef Benkhedda and Abderrahman Kiouane of the Oumma Movement; and Ahmed Benmohamed of the Muslim-Modern Algeria group have set up an organization which they call the Algerian Islamic Solidarity [AIS]. This is how Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun, a founding member of this body, explains his stand on the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]:

[Begin recording] [Sahnoun] It is unnatural, illegal, and unreasonable for an accredited party which is considered a participant in the [National Assembly] election and which won the elections to be dissolved. This decision is difficult to understand. It is unreasonable. Our position toward the dissolution of the FIS matches the position of the majority of citizens in this homeland: They oppose it.

[Unidentified correspondent] In a recent issue of the EL SAHOUA newspaper you criticized the FIS for its dependence on improvization and individual leadership, as well as its lack of political awareness. What do you say now?

[Sahnoun] We did not say that. We said that the nation lacks the prerequisites for success in this life, among which are consultation, unity, cooperation, and dialogue. These things which exist everywhere in the world regrettably do not exist in the Islamic nation.

[Correspondent] You have decided to set up a new Islamic gathering. Is this gathering a reaction to the dissolution of the FIS, or was it a prior plan?

[Sahnoun] No, brother. We thought that we should have a common view of the situation, especially after the opinion of society, which is a democratic and Islamic society, was overturned—that is, the opinion that those who rule and lead the nation should be the best in the nation. This is not only the opinion of the FIS; it is the belief of the whole people. This is the issue. We thought therefore that we should express the people's view, so that there may be a joint statement, not several statements, for individual statements do not have the same credibility as joint action. We took joint action. Calling it Solidarity or something else is just a name. This is what is meant. It was not meant as an alternative to the FIS or any other movement. It is out of solidarity and it is out of cohesiveness in Islamic ranks, in order to appear united. This is the purpose.

[Correspondent] Cheikh, does this mean that the gathering is open to all national forces?

[Sahnoun] Seeing that it is a joint opinion, the opinion of the ummah, and the opinion of the majority, why it should not be open? These are the people whom we could attract at present, and if there are others with the same qualities, we have no objection. The more people who represent the people and represent their deprivation of this right, the more responsible we are.

[Correspondent] Will this gathering become a political party in the future?

[Sahnoun] This issue has not yet been decided. What we have started with is this: a joint picture representing the nation's view of the regime's overturning of this right, which has become the right of the nation and the opinion of the nation. Why the nation? They ask you: They took away my choice—why? For democracy? We have practiced democracy and recognized it. For Islam? Here we are as Muslims, we said. This is what was meant, my son. [end recording]

That was Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun, founder of the League of the Islamic Call, talking to the radio station about his stand on the dissolution of the FIS and about the nature and the objectives of the body which he and other Islamic activists established, namely the Algerian Islamic Solidarity.

FFS Criticizes Decision

LD0503235292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Statement by Dr. Kamkam, deputy leader of the Socialist Forces Front, FFS; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front, the FFS, refuses to become trapped in the logic of a regime which does not want to denounce the two sides unless they ally themselves with it. [sentence as heard]

Out of loyalty to its democratic principles, the FFS does not approve of dissolving a party in extraordinary circumstances—the state of emergency in which we live today—under hasty, extraordinary measures, the absence of transparency, and giving notice to public opinion of its clear will to justify the repressive measures—those past and those still to come.

Reconsidering the objection that will come before the Supreme Court will not be credible unless it is done under constitutional and fair circumstances.

As for the FFS, today we must work to find a political solution to existing problems, and they are, before everything else, political problems.

Restoring tranquillity to the citizens will take place through a constructive and responsible dialogue with all influential forces in society.

Islamic Society Leader on Measure

LD0503185892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday's decision by the administrative court of Algeria's judicial council to dissolve the Islamic Salvation Front continues to provoke reactions from political groupings in the country.

Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, chairman of the Islamic Society, commented today on the dissolution decision in an interview with APS by saying that the real solution is not to liquidate the body of a being but rather to remove the ailing part. He added that if there is a solution it revolves around the idea or the stand through which violence is practiced or through the rejection of tolerance. Therefore, the solution, as Cheikh Nahnah put it, is not dissolution but rather finding a formula which respects ideas and opinions that will not fragment national unity or divide the country and will not link Algeria economically to (?blind) dependency.

Cheikh Nahnah indicated that the FIS' dissolution means the dissolution of Islam, because Islam is an eternal religion. [sentence as heard]

Red Cross Allowed To Tour Detention Centers

LD0503204592 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Algeria—There is no reaction on the street the day after the announcement of the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front. [passage omitted]

The International Red Cross has just received permission to visit the recently opened Saharan detention centers. Islamists arrested since the introduction of the state of emergency are being held there.

National People's Assembly Staff on Enforced Leave

LD0503232392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The administration of the National People's Assembly has announced that all workers and officials of the National People's Assembly are on enforced leave as of Saturday.

In a recent memo addressed to officials the administration explained that this leave will be considered part of their vacation time and that the normal resumption of work will be carried out by individual recall at the appropriate time.

The memo added that the men of the National People's Assembly remain at the disposal of the institution and may be recalled at any time during the enforced leave.

Egypt

'Anxiety' Over Remarks by UK's Hogg

JN0403181692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Egyptian Government has held urgent contacts with the British Foreign Office seeking an explanation of statements made by Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, who said that Egypt and Syria are not involved in the security of the Gulf region, as they do not overlook it. Hogg also affirmed that it is impossible to ignore Iran's role in security arrangements for the region.

[Begin Mustafa Bakri recorded report from Cairo] According to well-informed Egyptian sources, Cairo has voiced anxiety over the statements by the British minister, and said they harm the security of the region and its affairs. In this respect, Egypt recalled the points of the Damascus agreement, reached between the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as well as Egypt and Syria. Egypt affirmed that the security of the Gulf is basically an Arab affair, and that security arrangements are defined by the Arab countries directly concerned with this security.

Differences had surfaced in the past over how to implement the Damascus agreement between the countries which had signed it. The differences focused on the relationship of this agreement with other security arrangements most of the Gulf countries had signed with certain foreign countries. [end recording]

Editorial Says Libyan Regime in 'Deep Pit'

NC0503122992 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Mar 92 pp 4-6

[Mahmud al-Tuhami editorial: "U.S. Blackmail and Libyan Vulnerability"]

[Excerpts] Pressure from the United States, France, and the United Kingdom has succeeded in rallying the international community against the Libyan regime. At the center of the crisis are two Libyans accused of blowing up the U.S. Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, and a French passenger plane over Niger in 1989. The Libyan Jamahiriyah has been accused of sponsoring the terrorist attacks. The UN Security Council passed a resolution calling on the Jamahiriyah to cooperate with the judiciary authorities in the three countries in investigating the case. As tension escalated, the threat of military action against Libya became a possibility if the latter were to refuse to hand over the two men. [passage omitted]

It has become evident to all Arabs that the implementation of UN resolutions is subject to the whims and wishes of the three major Western countries.

In matters concerning Israel, no pressure is being applied to ensure the implementation of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The balance always tilts toward Israel. The use of force is never threatened against Israel. "Gentle persuasion" is the most common way of expressing the dismay of the international community with Israel.

Islamic activists have banked on such a situation, making it a focus of their propaganda and a source of great embarrassment to Arab governments that seek to reach a settlement with Israel and to promote the peace efforts. The fundamentalists accuse such governments of servility and capitulation to the West and its conditions, and of abandoning the rights of Arab nations and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

This tactic has won supporters and sympathizers for the Muslim extremists. The fundamentalists have found support even in the West, where some observers speak against the suppression of fundamentalist movements, on the grounds that suppression would drive the extremists underground and cause an increase in terrorist attacks against international interests.

I am against this view. I am against placating thugs and blackmailers, for the latter should not be allowed to hold the world hostage with their machine guns and knives. I find it appalling that Western thinkers have become so immersed in their luxury that they are ready to give in to terrorists. The latter should not be allowed to have more rights and freedom of movement just because they change their name and address.

It is not astonishing that such ideas should emanate from the United States, where blackmail is a way of life. American films are full of blackmail stories, as audiences may have noticed. "Blackmail" is a strong aspect of both U.S. cinema and society.

No wonder, then, that this penetrates the upper echelons of U.S. political and military planning. There is nothing

to prevent the common use of blackmail in social relations within the United States from etching its mark on U.S. policies toward others.

An important question occurs to me: Why has Libya in particular been chosen as the object of the accusation, and the demand to hand over two terrorist suspects?

The fact is that the domestic situation in Libya itself might be the reason for this campaign, and might have prepared it to be the arena for such an operation.

The fact is that discussing Libya is a very difficult matter, primarily because frankness is disturbing and painful to the Libyan brothers and neighbors. Nevertheless, we must overcome this difficulty in view of the current crisis' serious implications. The crisis itself is also painful and disturbing to the extent that is difficult to assess.

Libya created the stage on which it is the victim of the settling of relations among the major powers. Libya is the only country with a curious system in which there is no state, president, ministers, or ambassadors in the accepted sense. It does not possess conventional channels for dealing with other countries. It has exerted itself to demonstrate the truth of a theory, and has tried to impose its own language on the outside world.

This does not mean that there is no central authority in Libya. Such an authority certainly exists, but in such a form that others have failed in dealing with it. When the Libyan system is based on "dismantling" the institutions that represent the state and inspire international confidence, it becomes easy to level any accusation at it and win, even if unfairly.

I believe that the absence of any form of internationally accepted government system in Libya has led to a loss of understanding. It has also perhaps created various wings and ruling groups that adopt revolutionary ideas and exercise one-upmanship against each other, leaving large loopholes for some individuals to perpetrate irresponsible acts, the price of which the "country" pays.

Perhaps the investigating judges in the three Western countries insisted that the two Libyans suspected of blowing up the two planes should appear before them partly because, in Libya, there are no trustworthy local authorities with whom they can deal.

The other point that must be considered is the atmosphere which Libya created by confusing revolutionary movements that have legitimate demands with other movements that use this pretext to attain other objectives. In other words, Libya adopted the name of the Great Jamahiriyah, tried "verbally" to act like a great power, and its leaders made "pompously great" speeches with no substance. This entrenched the idea that Libya's ruling group is inimical to the international order and bent on interfering in other countries' internal affairs under radical slogans. [passage omitted]

Libya has denounced and renounced terrorism. This is very good. But which system in Libya guarantees this declaration? Where is the state that can honor its commitments? Frankly, one can ask: Who speaks on behalf of the Libyan people?

You can never persuade the world to accept talk about the "Jamahiriyah" system; namely, that you must address the entire Libyan people and convince them. The world interprets this as a way of avoiding international responsibilities and commitments that governments and heads of state must shoulder.

Again, I say with bitterness in my heart: The Libyan regime has placed itself in a deep pit and must exert itself to get out of it. We will help it surmount the crisis with any effective means available to us. But the Libyan regime itself must attempt to extricate itself from its crisis, and help those who are trying to assist it. I believe that facing and understanding the facts is very important for life and existence.

Libya must do something about rearranging its state institutions, particularly those institutions that deal with the outside world.

Libya

Opposition Figure Interviewed on 'Transition'

PM0303154292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Feb 92 p 8

[Report on an interview with Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, oppositionist and former Revolution Command Council member, in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—In his first interview with an Arabic publication since he was tipped by many to play a leading role in any future political and reformist changes in Libya, Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Tahir al-Huni, former Libyan Revolution Command Council member, said that a military strike against Libya was out of the question in the foreseeable future, noting that such a strike would depend on certain balances of power, which are unfavorable at present.

Maj. al-Huni attributed the U.S. escalation against Libya to causes beyond the airline incident over Lockerbie. It may have something to do with important unannounced oil discoveries in Libya.

Maj. al-Huni, who occupied the posts of foreign minister and chief of intelligence before settling down in voluntary exile in Egypt, commented on reports that he would play an essential role if any radical changes took place in Libya. He said that he personally believed that Armed Forces Commander 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir was the candidate for the transition to stability and lawful civilian rule, emphasizing that the solution would not come from abroad. He added that he [Jabir] was good at dialogue and did not object to a state with institutions.

Maj. al-Huni disclosed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT the details of a nationalist memorandum submitted to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi consisting of nine demands. Al-Qadhdhafi described it as being tantamount to a "coup," but then added that he would submit it to the General People's Congress next year.

Al-Huni, who is highly respected in Libyan circles, said that any scenario for hitting Libya would backfire and would entail the danger of civil war, similar to what happened in Somalia.

Al-Huni said that he would prefer a peaceful transition period in Libya without foreign interference, to lay the foundations for civilian democratic rule and to ensure the country's safety and stability without bloodshed. Speaking for the opposition, he said that it would not engage in any bargaining over the country's cause, and would not tolerate a continuation of the current state of anarchy in Libya.

Maj. 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni revealed that during his meeting with Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi some weeks ago he spoke about the need for democracy, and said that al-Qadhdhafi's view was that Maj. al-Huni had been brainwashed! He added that his view of the U.S. escalation against Libya was that it went beyond the issue of bringing charges against individual Libyans. He stressed that the matter was connected to the black liquid (oil). Not hiding his amazement, he said that the West need not worry about the future of oil because "the Americans are the ones who do the prospecting, discovering, drilling, and producing, and they are the ones who purchase the oil in the end, paying the price in dollars so that we can spend it."

Maj. al-Huni said that, in his view, Libya and the accused individuals were not involved in the Lockerbie case. He said he doubted the existence of any evidence in the case, and expressed the fear that Arabs in general were the target. He added that, according to reports that he has read recently, if the current claims were proven, Libya would be asked to pay about $14 billion in compensation, which would mean driving Libya to bankruptcy and mortaging Libyan oil to the United States for several years.

Referring to the U.S. scenario for the invasion of Libya, Maj. al-Huni ruled out the idea, "at least for the time being," but cited the POW's recently moved from Chad to Kenya and then to the United States. He added: I recently read statements by some of them, saying that they were receiving training in the United States. If a U.S. attack is staged against Libya, they would be used as an advance force. When Libya was attacaked in 1988, al-Qadhdhafi was within a stone's throw, but the Americans were unable to kill him. They would certainly want to learn from past mistakes and to correct these mistakes by using these people. We reject that, of course. What happens in Libya is primarily a Libyan affair. I do not believe that change should be brought about by foreigners. I do not believe that any of that is about to happen, because it depends on the balances of power, which are not favorable at present. If a coup is carried out by and under the influence of a foreign power, it would backfire completely and could cause a civil war similar to that taking place in Somalia.

Maj. al-Huni warned that such a step would endanger Libya's security, safety, and territorial integrity, "because, as I have said before, tribal influence is still very strong in Libya. Even the war of liberation against the imperialists was waged on a tribal basis. The regime survived by feeding tribal feelings. Just imagine: There are, for example, only 50,000 people in the approximately 500 km area between Libya's two major cities, Tripoli and Benghazi. The majority of these people work in oil. We have no agriculture or industry in the scientific sense of the word. That is why we are opposed to any foreign interference; because it would be a threat to our country and would expose it to partition and division. [quotation marks as published]

With regard to recent reports mentioning his name as part of a leadership committee or state council, or a revival of the Revolution Command Council formula for power in the transitional period, Maj. 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni said that although he was willing to serve his country in any position, he would personally nominate Brigadier General 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, Libyan Revolution Command Council member and Armed Forces commander, to play a leading role in the transition period. In justifying his nomination, he said: "To prevent any misunderstanding regarding my absence from the country—which I consider necessary, because I happen to be a member of the opposition abroad—I say that Brig. Gen. Jabir is an alternative from within the regime itself, and choosing him would confirm that the change did not come from aborad. In addition to that, he has a number of good qualities, the most important of which, in my view, are that he is not stubborn, he believes in dialogue, and he would not oppose the creation of a state based on institutions, law, and the observance of human rights." Al-Huni denied rumors of a conflict between the Army and the revolutionary committees. He stressed that the revolutionary committees include 25,000 recruits under Col. al-Qadhdhafi's command, and they all stick together.

On the possibility of Libyan opposition members returning to Libya, Maj. al-Huni said that the problem was that the regime wanted everyone to return and submit their demands to the revolutionary committees and the General People's Congress as ordinary citizens, not as members of the opposition... He said that, in his view, the status of the committees and congresses was unacceptable.

He described the general situation in Libya as a state of anarchy, lawlessness, and widespread corruption. There have been no telephone directories for years, he said, for fear that the opposition might exploit them in its contacts and in the distrubition of its literature. The streets have no names and houses have no numbers. That is to

prevent their use by invaders. The authorities spy on everything, especially the military—including the various military academies.

On the regime's reaction to the memorandum submitted by Maj. 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, known as the "Memorandum of the Libyan Nationalist Forces," he said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi described it as tantamount to a coup, but said that he would submit it to the next session of the General People's Congress.

On his concept of Arab unity, Maj. al-Huni said that it was undoubtedly a noble and sublime objective. Laughing, he then added: "I remember that during a meeting between Habib Bourguiba and Col. al-Qadhdhafi, after the latter had spoken about his aspiration for unity, Bourguiba said: It would be better for you to unite Libya first, then we could talk about Arab unity."

On the Gulf war and the Libyan regime's position on that war, Maj. al-Huni said that it was inconsistent, and that Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud enthusiastically supported Saddam Husayn. As for my own personal position, he said, I felt very sad about the invasion of Kuwait, and I would have liked for Iraq to accept the Arab solution.

Finally, we asked him about his vision of Libya in the future in light of current developments. He said: "We want a peaceful transition period, without bloodshed and without foreign interference, to lay the foundations of civilian democratic rule and preserve our country's security and stability.

We cannot bargain over our country's security, territorial integrity, and stability, and we would not tolerate a continuation of the current state of confusion, anarchy, and indifference. [quotation marks as published]

Memorandum Published

PM0303162492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Feb 92 p 8

["Text" of "Memorandum of the Nationalist Forces" submitted by former Revolution Command Council Member Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi]

[Text] The world has witnessed new changes, carrying the seeds of new international and regional relations, which should be viewed reasonably, rationally, and carefully.

These changes have been vast and stormy, indicating that the world is entering a unique historical phase. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp was only one of many indications of the magnitude of these changes, which will characterize the next century. Regardless of our position on these changes, we must meet Libya's interests in their pan-Arab and Islamic contexts, and must deal with these changes accordingly, particularly since Libya is a small state with limited political resources.

In the course of the new unipolar international approach, the United States has announced, in agreement with Britain and France, a number of demands ultimately designed to blame the majority of international terrorism on the Libyan regime headed by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

That campaign has confronted Libyan citizens with a historic responsibility at a crucial time in our people's history. It makes it incumbent upon us to give reason, wisdom, and a sense of responsibility a complete chance to find the best ways and means to safeguard our homeland and people, and to spare them all kinds of catstrophes and calamities. We are sure that our people are now engaged in the same careful thinking and review that we are engaged in at this serious stage in our history.

If the Libyan people, officials, and opposition are urged to think seriously, it would be futile to confine their thinking to a firm and rigid ideological framework. Their thinking must be rational, clear, realistic, and based on understanding and comprehension of the international and regional changes and on safeguarding national and pan-Arab interests, to allow our people to join the procession of human civilization with steady feet.

The serious crisis facing our homeland today is an actual fact, and the result of a series of practices by a group of its people who, without conscience or qualifications, infiltrated positions of power and exploiting the thrust and popularity of the revolution. They spread corruption, deterred the public, destroyed security and safety, violated sanctities, humiliated men, undermined honor, destroyed the economy, ignorantly and maliciously dismantled the state's machinery, and permitted ignorance and favoritism to control all aspects of life in the homeland. They used all forms of terrorism to ensure their continuation in their positions, and recruited hardened criminals who, without conscience or deterrence, committed atrocities at home and abroad, assassinating everyone who raised his voice against corruption. Ignorantly and arrogantly, they committed the ugliest crimes, until Libya's name became synonymous with terrorism everywhere.

That made it easier for others to blame our people and homeland for every ugly act. Concern for our people's safety and our homeland's sovereignty requires that we should all face corruption honestly and bravely. We should call a spade a spade, and name those who have placed our homeland and people in this serious dilemma. We therefore believe that the following steps should be taken urgently:

1. Anyone who participated in, or whose name was linked to, terrorist operations at home or abroad should be removed from his post.

2. An unlimited, comprehensive, and large-scale investigation should be started, covering the elements accused of terrorist operations, so that everyone who committed a crime against mankind will be punished and it will not be easy for others to commit acts of terrorism in the future.

3. Complete cooperation with the investigating authorities at home and abroad, to uncover the culprits who committed terrorist crimes and those behind them.

4. To uphold the rule of law, without which the public's security and freedom will always be in danger.

5. Building bridges of confidence in Libya requires the dissolution of all organs of coercion, including the revolutionary committees.

6. The immediate declaration of a general national accord, whereby all laws and decisions that run contrary to the international declaration of human rights will be abolished.

7. A general declaration of goodwill, whereby all political prisoners will be released and the political and economic ban lifted for all Libyans.

8. The economy must be reformed and all the practices which led to its deterioration must be abolished.

9. Attention must be given to the oil industry, including prospecting and production, and a serious dialogue must be started with the foreign companies in partnership with the national oil establishment.

You undoubtedly realize that the Libyan regime faces a serious crisis which, if intensified, could threaten the downfall of the regime itself.

Furthermore, the United States and its allies have undoubtedly brought the regime to the brink of the abyss. This conclusion is based not only on our own analysis but also on a study of the views of many circles, including the regime itself, and Col. al-Qadhdhafi in particular. It is our responsibility to care, first and foremost, for our people and their future, and to look beyond individual crises to the national crisis. We must specify the danger and the deviation, call things by their real names, and put our loyalty to the national cause first.

Long live our Libyan people's struggle.

German Study Predicts Possible Military Coup

AU0603102892 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 6 Mar 92 p 6

["Al-Qadhdhafi Anticipates Officers' Coup"]

[Text] Bonn—Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is having problems. Libya's chief of state must be concerned about being ousted from power in a coup by military officers. The officers have reproached him for having neglected the armed forces through his commitment for Islamic fundamentalism. They say that the Navy is not operational and the Air Force has only a few trained pilots. Those who have had enough flight hours are unable to carry out night flights. The morale of the Army and the People's Guards is so poor that if an armed conflict were to break out, there would be as many deserters and defectors in a regiment, according to an analysis of the Bonn Institute of Terrorism Research.

The study says that a high official of the Libyan secret service spoke about proposals to transfer Air Force fighter aircraft to Sudan, to protect them from a U.S. retaliatory strike that is still considered possible.

The analysis adds that the secret service feels betrayed. The service sees itself as a negotiating chip for al-Qadhdhafi's tactical maneuvers with the United States and the United Nations. Criticism of the "leader's" clumsy policy following the Lockerbie attack is increasing. Al-Qadhdhafi had obviously considered placing before a court the two officers of his secret intelligence service under suspicion as a result of U.S. investigations. They were arrested and interrogated. An execution appeared to be a possibility. This was prevented by the resolute protest of the number two in the Libyan hierarchy, Prime Minister [title as publihed] 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. One of the accused is a relative of Jallud's. Jallud's relationship with the chief of state has cooled off.

Now al-Qadhdhafi has suffered another defeat. He tried to achieve a compromise with the United States. The discreet mission was carried out by his cousin, Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, and was supported by an Egyptian diplomat and a former senior CIA official. Washington rejected the Libyan overtures.

A diversion created by the PLO failed as well. A PLO security service report claimed that Libya is not responsible for the attack on the Pan Am passenger plane over Lockerbie. Rather, it was carried out by Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]. The United States was to be punished for the downing of an Iran Air passenger plane over the Persian Gulf by the U.S. Navy frigate Vincennes on 3 July 1988. The client was 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, then Iranian interior minister; the fee paid, $8 million.

According to the analysis, it is now known that 'Arafat's secret service prepared the study only to obtain Libyan oil dollars once again.

The strongest opposition comes from intelligence officers who work abroad in the West. An air embargo, meaning the interruption of all international flights to Libya, would cause irreparable damage to the regime. The analysis says that al-Qadhdhafi would find it almost impossible to resolve his problems. A coup would become inevitable. It might be touched off by the statements of a high-ranking Libyan intelligence officer who defected to the West several weeks ago.

Official Denies Links to 'Former U.S. Agent'

NC0303100492 Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 3 (AFP) - A senior Libyan official in Egypt categorically denied having any ties with a former U.S. agent who a magazine says may have been involved in the bombing of a Pan American airliner over Scotland.

Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations, late Monday denied the U.S. magazine report linking him to former CIA operative Frank Terpil.

The current issue of U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT said Terpil, who is not a target of the Pan Am probe, may have helped Libyan agents make the bomb that destroyed the airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, killing 270 people.

In a letter to AFP, Qadhdhaf al-Damm, a cousin of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, said he had "never had any relationship with Terpil" and has "never seen him."

"I reserve myself the right to take legal action against the magazine," he said in the letter. "I find it ridiculous that one circulates at random the accusations."

According to U.S. NEWS, Terpil developed his Libyan connection through Qadhdhaf al-Damm.

British authorities say they would like to pursue that line of inquiry, the magazine reported, but U.S. officials maintain that without more hard evidence there is no reason to reopen the Terpil file. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Conspiracy' To Partition Iraq Stressed

LD0603091992 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS revealed a serious report issued by a committee of experts and U.S. Congressmen calling for so-called support for democracy in the Middle East, and establishing better American relations with Iran, pointing out that with the release of the American hostages in Lebanon, the United States should work toward improving its relations with Iran.

AP said that the report—prepared by a committee of 42 experts, academics, decisionmakers, and former diplomats, in addition to four prominent members of Congress—called on the United States to push for the partition of Iraq.

Commenting on this report, JANA's political editor stressed that there is a very serious conspiracy to partition Iraq, as part of a scheme to disintegrate the Arab countries even further, which would lead to the destruction of the Arab nation and to Israeli domination of the entire region. The political editor of JANA called on the Arab nation to stand firmly in the face of this conspiracy, and said that the partition of Iraq according to the American scheme is the fate which awaits every Arab country. He says dividing the Arabs into groups, sects, and political forms is of the most serious of conspiracies, because there is not a single Arab country that is not susceptible to division into groups, sects, and minorities.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Tunisian, Liberian Officials

LD0403235592 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received brother Abderrahim Zouari, minister of justice of fraternal Tunisia and envoy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The brother leader of the revolution also received the president of the interim government of national unity of Liberia.

Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives, Praises Ties

LD0403100492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Feb, JANA—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and his delegation arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Iraqi trade minister made a statement to JANA, in which he praised the fraternal and friendly relations that tie the Great Jamahiriyah with fraternal Iraq. In his statement, he stressed Iraq's stand and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah against the neo-imperialistic campaign

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Tunisia

Further on Visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister

Musa Meets Ben Yahya, 'Arafat

NC0503080292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a second round of talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya last night in Tunis. Following the talks Musa said that a joint communique will be issued at the end of his three-day visit to Tunisia. Musa said that he and Ben Yahya discussed bilateral and international issues, the Middle East peace process, and the current Arab situation.

Musa met with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis earlier yesterday. They discussed recent Arab and international developments with particular emphasis on the Middle East peace talks and Israel's position in these talks.

Comments on Peace Talks, Lockerbie

NC0503121492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tunis, 5 Mar (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the peace talks should continue and that the Arabs should mount a concerted diplomatic offensive against the continued occupation, the building of settlements, and the Judaization or annexation of Jerusalem.

In an interview published today in AL-SAHAFAH and the French-language newspaper LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE, Musa said that the talks are proceeding very slowly. He noted that there have been signs in the recent bilateral sessions that the negotiations may continue.

Musa said that because we have entered into talks we should try to gain as much as possible from them. We should especially regain the land. Musa noted that the world has entered a new phase in which Israel's intransigence and continued occupation of Arab land is unacceptable. The U.S. stand on settlements proves this point, he stated.

Musa said that Israel should understand that in the new international situation it cannot appropriate land and hope for the matter to be forgotten. Occupation is a destabilizing factor in the region and is not in Israel's interests, Musa said. He noted that it is important for all parties to feel that they have something to gain from the peace process.

If Israel withdraws, Musa said, it would gain recognition and real peace, the Arabs would regain their land, and the Palestinians would, at least eventually, regain their right to self-determination.

As for the Lockerbie issue, Musa said that Egypt and Tunisia share the same position: first, that force should be avoided; second, that Libyan sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected; and, third, that terrorism should be firmly confronted. The Lockerbie bombing should be denounced and the suspects should be tried, he said. As for their being handed over, this is a different issue because it is subject to agreements and international law and should be viewed from this perspective and in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, Musa added.

Musa noted that Libya wants to take its case to the International Court of Justice, whereas the United States, France, and the United Kingdom will take up the issue at the UN Security Council. He added: The battle right is now taking place in the diplomatic arena. We are following the situation. Our position is one of rejecting terrorism, respect for international law, and concern for Libya and its people.

Final Statement Issued

NC0503171892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tunis, 5 Mar (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya have underlined the need to sustain peaceful efforts to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue in accordance with UN resolutions, the land-for-peace formula, and the need for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories.

In a final statement following their meetings in Tunis, the ministers voiced support for the Palestinian people until they completely regain their legitimate rights.

The two foreign ministers agreed to set up a joint committee to follow up on bilateral relation issues. The committee will report directly to the prime ministers of both countries.

The Egyptians and Tunisians also agreed to maintain bilateral consultations and coordination within the framework of the OAU to enhance its role in African development.

The two sides called for intensified international efforts to assist Third World countries in their economic development efforts.

Minister Musa invited Habib Ben Yahya to visit Egypt and the Tunisian minister accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be determined through diplomatic channels.

After his talks in Tunis Minister Musa expressed satisfaction with the results and noted that an Egyptian-Tunisian joint committee will be established to follow up on the implementation of the negotiated points. He said that the two sides agreed to continue consultations on various issues.

The foreign minister added that the similarity of Egyptian and Tunisian views on regional, Arab, and international matters calls for optimism in bilateral relations.

Minister Habib Ben Yahya said that the two sides will work strenuously to implement an intensive working program in accordance with instructions from Presidents Mubarak and Zine El Abidine and from the joint higher committee which met in Cairo last December.

He said that his talks with Minister 'Amr Musa over the past two days once again confirmed that the political leaderships of the two countries are committed to political cooperation and developing an ideal workin method which permits further bilateral coordination for the benefit of world peace, fraternity, and development.

Minister Musa, who is visiting Tunisia at the invitation of Minister Ben Yahya, earlier delivered a message to President Ben Ali from President Mubarak.

Musa also met with Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

Algerian Minister Departs After Working Visit

LD0503111992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Larbi Belkheir, minister of interior and local communities, left Tunisia today at the end of a two-day working visit at the invitation of his Tunisian counterpart.

Mr. Belkheir was received today at Carthage Palace by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. After this meeting Mr. Larbi Belkheir said that he appreciated the audience that the Tunisian president had accorded him. He also indicated that his visit to Tunisia came within the framework of the rapprochement, cooperation, and fraternal ties linking the two sister countries, Tunisia and Algeria.

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister Says Deliveries Cut Back

LD0503232392 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Hisham Nazir, petroleum and mineral resources minister, said in a statement to SPA today that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia began to cut back its oil deliveries soon after the end of the OPEC meeting in February. The Kingdom's measure had an effect on the market soon after it was implemented. He said that we are still bound by our undertaking to cut back our deliveries by 500,000 barrels a day in March and April and that we look forward to the other OPEC members remaining faithful to their promise to cut back if we really want to achieve market balance and an improvement in prices.

Republic of Yemen

Report Says Palace Shoot-Out Apolitical in Nature

PM0603101492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Three Officers Killed in Presidential Palace Office Shoot-Out"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden—Three officers were killed and one employee was wounded in a shoot-out in one of Yemen's presidential offices the day before yesterday when an Army colonel was accused of forging the president's signature on documents that he wanted completed and that were to be sent to the public attorney's office.

Yemeni Army Colonel Husayn Duwayd, using a pistol hidden under his clothes, shot and critically wounded 'Ali Jamal al-Kishri, an employee at the presidential executive office in Sanaa and who was later taken to the hospital. Al-Kishri claimed that the colonel's documents were forged and were to be sent to the public attorney's office for examination to verify the president's signature. Yemeni sources later confirmed that Col. Duwayd had forged the president's signature.

Upon leaving the office the colonel was confronted by two presidential guard officers. One of the two officers was Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Ghani al-'Ubaydi, the guard's deputy commander and former commander of the prime minister's guard, who also used to write for the newspaper AL-MITHAQ, published by the General People's Congress. He shot them, killing them instantly. When the guards at the gate saw Col. Duwayd coming out brandishing a pistol, they killed him.

In addition to his work in the Yemeni Armed Forces, Col. Duwayd was also a well-known tribal shaykh. He used to visit the presidential office frequently to conduct business for himself and his friends. His relationship with the employees there was good, but he lost his temper the day before yesterday and opened fire when he was accused of forging papers and the president's signature. According to an informed source, the incident has no political dimensions. [passage omitted]

President Salih Urges Elections Within 30 Months

PM0203124492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that Algeria's experiment can be repeated in Yemen?

[Salih] I do not believe that Algeria's experiment will be repeated in Yemen, because we have our own characteristics and our own experiment. We are currently busy studying all the situations around us, nationally, regionally, and internationally and benefiting from all that is positive and avoiding all that has a negative effect on the democratic process in our country. This is because democracy has become a fundamental choice. We are proceeding with it in the direction that builds and does not destroy—the direction that safeguards the credibility of the decision made by the leadership with regard to the commitment to the democratic line.

[AL-HAYAH] It is clear from your remarks that you insist on elections, so when will they be held?

[Salih] The unity agreement specified the duration of the transition period as two and a half years. That was under an agreement between the leaderships of the two parts [of Yemen], which are now a single leadership. This leadership is committed to and responsible for implementing the agreement and ending the transition period on schedule. We are currently preparing to hold the elections before their due date so that they do not coincide with the end of the transition period.

[AL-HAYAH] So are we to understand that the elections might be held before the transition period ends?

[Salih] We are committed to the agreement and prefer that the elections be held before the transition period ends. If any difficulties occur, they will coincide with the end of the transition period. The election bill is being drafted. It is currently being discussed by the political parties and will be discussed by the House of Representatives. A higher committee for the elections will be formed. All this is directed toward holding the elections on their specified date.

[AL-HAYAH] There has been a notable emphasis placed on the end of the transition period. How do you explain this emphasis?

[Salih] The whole leadership wants to end the transition period on the specified date in fulfillment of the unity agreement. Preparations are currently being made to proceed to the election stage.

[AL-HAYAH] What is your opinion of the claim that the leadership should be shared by more than one person?

[Salih] It is currently shared by more than two, three, or four. But we want to learn how it can be shared by more than two without that being considered a coalition or a partnership that violates democracy. We say that we accept its being shared by more than two within the democratic framework.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view alliances in the future among Yemeni parties, especially as there is virtual unanimity about the establishment of an alliance? Having met with many figures, it seems to me that no single party will be able to win alone unless a surprise occurs, which is what the Reform Party thinks, because it believes that it will win a majority in the new parliament.

[Salih] We always urge the formation of alliances, because there are now 44 parties. We would prefer that there be alliances among all political parties. The political parties and organizations should agree on joint programs. They should merge so as to reduce the number of parties, which is better for political pluralism and would help a great deal in the stage ahead in establishing an alliance that strengthens and consolidates national unity and safeguards Yemeni unity.

Alliances are not harmful. On the contrary, coalitions or alliances are a good thing and help to build the national political and democratic structure. So there is no harm with alliances and no harm with any political party's winning a majority, provided that it adheres to democracy. Because democracy won a place in the House of Representatives, it should adhere to it so that it will not turn into a dictator clinging to power, denying others their right to the democratic practice, and aborting democracy for whatever reason.

[AL-HAYAH] If an opposition party wins a majority, will you hand over power?

[Salih] I am convinced that as long as democracy is the basis for the assumption of power it should be transferred to others in the same democratic spirit. I personally am among those who believe in handing over power to any opposition party if democracy so dictates.

[AL-HAYAH] What will you do after you leave power?

[Salih] What will I do? I will be a citizen and a soldier loyal to this homeland. I certainly wish to hand over power. Because I assumed power through democracy, I am prepared to hand over power through democracy. That is no cause for regret because no one can remain a ruler forever. That is unnatural. We should give others a chance. What is important is that there be no disruption of security or a recourse to violence. We learn from democracy because it is our choice and the characteristic of our age.

[AL-HAYAH] There is much talk from the opposition and a number of state officials about a lack of security and crazy price hikes. How will you tackle those?

[Salih] The opposition is certainly entitled to say whatever it wants. Any political party seeking to win votes will address this issue. It will talk about the disruption of security, economic problems, prices, and financial and administrative corruption. This might appear acceptable from the opposition and does not surprise us, but what does surprise us is for talk about financial and administrative corruption to come from those within state bodies. Before they can talk about any financial or administrative corruption through democracy and the press, they must meet their responsibilities and correct the deviations which they have probably caused.

Citizens laugh when they hear any state official talking about financial and administrative corruption and the disruption of security. This is because they know that it is his job to correct that deviation, wherever it may be—in the financial and administrative fields, or with regard to the dirsuption of security and price hikes.

As for price increases, the reasons are known, and every party is trying to use this issue as a weapon for political gain. I believe that no political organization will be able to remedy the economic situation unless resources and exports increase, by searching and prospecting for minerals and oil, and unless the drought problem is surmounted—that is, if God grants the rain needed to enable farmers in our country to cultivate the land and to revive agriculture. Only these things can tackle the economic defects. We are willing to allow any party to assume power and form a government if it can tackle the economic crisis. But I believe that the talk about the economic crisis will remain mere talk for local consumption and for political gain. Price hikes in our country are connected to internal, regional, and international factors and reasons. High prices are an international phenomenon not confined to our country alone. This is why we are not surprised when any opposition political party talks about them in such a way, because this is an issue which it is exploiting to make gains and win support.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the assassinations?

[Salih] There are no political assassinations. Most of the incidents are criminal incidents having to do with revenge, but due to political pluralism, every party and organization tries to portray any criminal incident to its elements as a political assassination directed primarily against itself. This serves no one except Yemen's enemies, and it provides the foreign forces that lay in wait for unity with a lethal weapon to use against Yemen. This is to give the impression that security has not been established in the country and that there are political assassinations and liquidations among parties. This is not true, and to portray the situation like this does not serve unity.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view your relations with the United States?

[Salih] Yemeni-U.S. relations are good and are developing constantly. The United States increasingly understands Yemen's position. Regrettably the Americans,

French, British, and the Europeans in general understand Yemen's position more than do some of the Arab brothers.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view the multilateral negotiations held in Moscow? Did you use the Palestinian position as an excuse for not participating?

[Salih] We decided to participate as long as this would support the Palestinian position. So if the Palestinians attend, we attend; if they don't, we don't. We are with the Palestinian people's consensus and the Arab consensus. The problem with Israel is not a bilateral one. It is an Arab problem. This is why our participation in the negotiations was linked to supporting the Palestinian position.

[AL-HAYAH] How is Yemen affected by events in the Horn of Africa: negatively or positively?

[Salih] What is happening in the Horn of Africa is very regrettable, and it has negative effects on Yemen. This is because these states are our neighbors, and the development of events there directly affects us.

We are suffering now because of these regrettable developments and the presence of thousands of refugees from these states, from both Somalia and Ethiopia. This causes us many problems. We have large numbers of them in Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, Aden, and al-Mahrah.

[AL-HAYAH] Speaking of al-Mahrah, when will the border agreement with Oman be signed?

[Salih] Discussions are continuing between us and our brothers in Oman. The technical committees are carrying out their duties and preparing all the information in order to sign the final border agreement between the two countries.

[AL-HAYAH] Will it be signed soon?

[Salih] Soon. As far as we are concerned we have no problems and are ready. We have informed our brothers in Oman that we are ready to sign the agreement before or after Ramadan or even after the transition period, and at any time they deem suitable. We are ready.

[AL-HAYAH] But you and the present government might not be in power after the elections.

[Salih] The agreement with Oman will be signed by the Yemeni state, which will remain and continue to exist both before and after the elections.

Egypt's al-Baz Arrives for Talks With President

JN0403193892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Brother Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, head of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs and first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a working visit to our country, during which he will convey a message to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from his brother His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In a statement to SABA', al-Baz said that his visit to our country comes within the framework of consultations and the exchange of opinions between the two fraternal countries on issues that concern our Arab nation. [passage omitted]

BABIL on Allegations of Hired Nuclear Experts

JN0503142592 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 2 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] As part of the hired media campaigns against Iraq, the German newspaper MORGENPOST AM SONNTAG says that Iraq is now employing nuclear experts from the former Soviet Union.

It is obvious that the purpose of this campaign is to mislead public opinion to cover up for the crime of the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. Has the paper not asked itself: Would it not be better for Iraq to purchase medicines instead of employing nuclear weapon experts?

IAEA: State 'Fully' Cooperative on Inspections

JN0403143592 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Geneva, Mar. 4, INA—A new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says Iraq has fully cooperated with U.N. inspector of its nuclear facilities. The report is released only 3 days after a statement by the Security Council accusing Iraq of non-compliance with U.N. resolutions.

The report indicates that Iraq has offered to reveal details of its long-term nuclear programme and to cooperate in future monitoring.

The report has been sent to U.N. Secretary General Dr Butrus Ghali.

BBC U.N. correspondent says the new report surprises the anti-Iraq alliance in that it reveals a picture of enhanced cooperation extended by Baghdad to a team of IAEA inspectors who have visited Iraq for just over a week in the first half of February. It gives [words indistinct] programmes and revealed to the inspector all stocks of nuclear material.

The report says that in the course of the inspection, Iraq went a long way to facilitate and expedite the team's work showing willingness to help in clarifying the complex coding system used to classify different areas of its nuclear programmes.

It is also clear from the new report that Iraq has offered to reveal details of its nuclear programmes going back to 15 years. In addition, the report says that Iraq is willing to help implement plans for the long-term monitoring of its programmes.

The document also points out that additional inspections at suspect sites did not provide any evidence of activities relevant to Iraq's clandestine nuclear facilities and it says that when the team went to an installation where it thought an underground nuclear reactor may have been located, it found nothing.

Iraq is cooperating with U.N. teams in order to remove an important obstacle to the lifting of sanctions.

Meanwhile, Arab sources say it is likely that a senior Iraqi delegation will arrive in New York next Monday for talks about compliance with the Security Council's demands under the war ceasefire. At the weekend, it was announced that the mission would be led by Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz.

On Monday, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari had confirmed that a high level delegation will arrive in New York to discuss with the Security Council a package of issues related to U.N. resolutions.

Following a meeting with the president of the Security Council, the Venezuelan U.N. envoy, al-Anbari told reporters the Iraqi delegation would be led by Mr. 'Aziz who he said is ready to discuss all military, nuclear, economic and oil topics.

The Iraqi envoy accused some Security Council members, specially the United States and Britain, of exceeding the Council's mandate prompted by some political motives. He said there are 13 other states in the Council ready to discuss seriously the lifting of the embargo.

Arab League Given Note on Weapons Destruction

NC0403163192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, this afternoon received Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the organization.

Following the meeting Dr. Najm stated that he had delivered a written message to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid from the Iraqi foreign minister concerning Iraq's destruction of its weapons of mass destruction, and other relevant issues which confirm Iraq's serious commitment to implementing the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

Dr. Najm added that he briefed the Arab League secretary general on the outcome of talks held in Baghdad with the head of the UN inspection team in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons. He pointed out that the talks convinced the international official that Iraq is fully committed to the UN resolutions, and he demonstrated the extent to which Iraq has implemented the provisions of earlier UN Security Council resolutions.

He added that a high-level Iraqi delegation will hold a dialogue with the UN Security Council in the next few days to review what Iraq has done so far to implement the UN resolutions.

The Iraqi delegate affirmed that Iraq is completely willing to cooperate with the UN Security Council to implement the resolution so that it can demand that the economic embargo imposed on it can be lifted.

BABIL Criticizes Libyan Statement on Saddam

JN0503173392 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
2 Mar 92 p 1

[Article by BABIL's political editor: "Neither Truth Nor Falsehood"]

[Text] World news agencies have carried a statement by the political editor of the Libyan JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY in which he compares a person, such as Bush, who has fallen to rock bottom in life and has been cursed by God and humanity, with a great leader who is the product of the suffering of a people and a nation, and who represents, as acknowledged first by Arabs and then by Iraqis, the loftiness and dignity of the Arab nation—a leader who has emerged with a new message to deliver the nation from this humiliation from which not only Arabs are suffering but also the whole world. This is because the United States has secured a huge, unilateral grip on authority, in spite of the fact that it represents only one component of the world's balance of power.

The JANA editor's statement was neither strange nor surprising, especially for politicians who are well-versed in developments and who know the minute details of the life of the Arab nation, its leaders, their conduct, and the daily behavior of its countries. The political line in Libya is known to be individualistic and is closely linked to the mercurial, impetuous head of the regime who, on many occasions, appears to be unaware of what he is saying. The best evidence of this is the confused utterances he made at the last Arab summit in Baghdad when he was replying to the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak.

Brevity is the soul of wit. Therefore, we will reply to the statement of the JANA political editor by saying that day by day, time will show who will offer more and more concessions. The Libyan regime first raised the slogan No to America. Then the regime said it will not hand over the people who blew up the airliner, and that it will not do this and that, in addition to a great number of no's. Day after day we notice, however, that Libyan envoys have started to ask Arab countries to intercede with the West. Then Libya itself began to send envoys to Western states. Libya then turned to a third party to set up a neutral tribunal, and then Libya set up its own court. The last thing it said was that it will hand over the suspects to a third party.

We can predict right now—and we always say that the person who speaks of the future is better than the person who discusses the past—that the Libyan regime, with the passage of time, will eventually give in to the Americans and give them everything they are asking for. The best evidence of this is that al-Qadhdhafi himself promised to take revenge against America when U.S. aircraft struck his home and killed his son [as published]. But so far al-Qadhdhafi has done nothing.

As for the muscle flexing and the stockpiling of food now under way, they are parts of a well-known charade whose end is also well known.

But what we should pay attention to is that it is known that al-Qadhdhafi has a complex against the emergence of any leader in the Arab nation. Although tolerance and forgetting about the past are the traits of men, al-Qadhdhafi's complex remains. We have no border with Libya and we had no differences with it on many issues, particularly in the early 1980's. The result was that al-Qadhdhafi was the first to volunteer to send experts and surface-to-surface missiles to the Iranian rulers. Baghdad was bombarded with these missiles, and pious martyrs were killed by an Arab weapon.

Hence, this man "al-Qadhdhafi" is living out a complex whose name is Saddam Husayn. If Saddam Husayn attends a national gathering, a few days later al-Qadhdhafi attends a national gathering. If Iraq sponsors a meeting that is attended by pan-Arab activists from various countries of the Arab homeland to support military development, a few days later al-Qadhdhafi calls for a similar pan-Arab meeting and employ his money and his weak influence on other people.

When Saddam Husayn's enemies refer to Iraq's technological military development—even if the enemies have no information about chemical factories and advanced plants in Libya—al-Qadhdhafi leaks information about Libyan chemical factories to the media in order to incite a campaign against Libya's possession of chemical weapon in a bid to be on par with leader Saddam Husayn, and as God Almighty says: For the scum disappears, and is cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [Koranic verses].

What we mentioned at the beginning of our article is the real reason for the statements by JANA's political editor. Iraq has emerged from a war and was exposed to Iranian treachery. It was also betrayed to the enemies by brothers. This was what an Egyptian girl student's letter sent to U.S. President Bush said when she spoke about the several violations committed against Iraq. Bush replied to her by saying that he had fought the war at the request of the Arab regimes and that he had done nothing more to Iraq than what the Arabs did.

On this basis and despite the siege, Iraq has started to arrange its house and its internal affairs. But when Iraq's dignity, its leading pan-Arab role bestowed to it by Almighty God, by history, and by the people of the Arab nation, were attacked, Iraq clearly said "no" on the subject of destroying its civilian factories which the West says are military factories. When al-Qadhdhafi saw that he was leader of a country that does not face aggression—although his country has accumulated hundreds of billions [currency not specified], most of which have been wasted on haphazard and corrupt organizations, and although his country is located in North Africa beside Arab countries that have pan-Arab influence, which these days has peaked—al-Qadhdhafi felt that his

size was being dwarfed after watching Iraq say no while he is saying one yes after another. So the JANA editor made this statement. He thought that what these silly tongues say—words from empty heads, not empty stomachs—would pull the rug out from under Iraq and its leader, and would wipe out all pictures of pride and respect with which the honorable Arabs view Iraq. We will not be the arbitrator of such a statement, but we leave it to the Libyan people themselves to evaluate such talk.

Envoy Rejects Human Rights Commission Allegations

JN0603093792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Geneva, 5 Mar (INA)—Iraq has strongly and firmly reacted to a resolution passed against it today by the Human Rights Commission, and stated that "the Commission has turned into a second Security Council tasked with carrying out the second chapter of the anti-Iraq scheme."

This reaction came in a speech delivered by the head of the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the 48th session of the Human Rights Commission before the Commission voted on a draft resolution submitted by its Western members concerning alleged human rights violations in Iraq. The resolution was widely termed here to be "a political resolution" rather than one pertaining to human rights.

According to an INA correspondent in Geneva, Dr. Muhammad al-Duri, head of the Iraqi delegation, affirmed in his speech Iraq's categorical refusal to deal with certain sectarian terms contained in the resolution. Dr. al-Duri added: Such terms reflect a premeditated and dangerous bad faith. This is an issue that hostile parties are seeking to use to partition and divide Iraq along sectarian and national lines.

Dr. al-Duri commented on the countries, all of them from the West, which adopted the draft resolution against Iraq, saying: Most of them are countries which participated militarily in the anti-Iraq aggression. These are countries which destroyed Iraq's property and which killed thousands of its men, not to mention the number of military personnel killed. Besides, these are the very countries which, through their maintenance of the economic blockade, are preventing the Iraqi people from enjoying their basic rights.

Summing up his argument, he said: With this draft resolution the countries which perpetrated a military aggression against Iraq are expressing their continued enmity toward the Iraqi people. As far as the special rapporteur is concerned upon whose report on Iraq the resolution is based, he is the citizen of a country which took part in the Atlantic aggression against Iraq. Consequently, he can never be honest or neutral.

Elaborating on this point, Dr. al-Duri added: The objective of this draft resolution is political rather than humanitarian. It is part of the media and political campaign directed against Iraq. It primarily seeks to exacerbate the difficult problems facing the Iraqi people; namely, problems pertaining to their unity and the territorial integrity of their country.

Dr. al-Duri asked: If the resolution was prompted by humanitarian concerns, then how could it fail to mention the economic blockade, which constitutes a human catastrophe affecting the entire Iraqi people?

The head of the Iraqi delegation called the resolution a verdict that turned the Human Rights Commission into a tribunal and the special rapporteur into a judge, even though he is, as a matter of fact, a witness whose testimony lacks accuracy and neutrality. He added: The Commission is not meant to serve as a tribunal. It is an agency tasked with bringing human rights violations to the attention of the international community, with discussing these violations, and with cooperating with the countries concerned to remedy any human rights situations.

The Iraqi chief delegate continued: Instead of cooperating to achieve the sublime objective assigned to it, the Commission has taken negative stands that will contribute to exacerbating the situation. Instead of seeing the language of dialogue prevail, we have seen the language of threats and intimidation used as if what is required is to push Iraq into adopting negative stands that will contribute to exacerbating the situation.

Dr. al-Duri categorically denied that there is a policy of organized eviction with regard to the Kurdish region, as noted in the resolution. He affirmed that the measures taken in this regard were adopted to evict people from the border strip for purely military reasons, to ensure the safety of the population in these areas.

With respect to the chapter of treason and treachery, the head of the Iraqi delegation noted that incidents in this regard had occurred as a result of schemes devised and directed by parties based abroad. He added that the authorities acted to return the situation to normal. And this, he argued, necessitated confrontation with rioters who had committed all kinds of crimes.

Dr. al-Duri added: In such types of confrontations there are inevitably victims. This is what happens in some international states nowadays. No one dares, however, say anything about this because the prime target at this point in time is Iraq. As for the other wanted countries, their turn will come later.

The Iraqi chief delegate affirmed that since this chapter was brought to an end the Iraqi people have been leading a normal life, albeit while suffering from the effects of the unjust economic blockade.

As for the issue of democratic freedoms, the head of the Iraqi delegation wondered about the nature of the political, social, and economic climate in which such freedoms normally flourish. Elaborating, he asked: Would it

be a climate of war, with the ensuing status of terrorism, starvation, and sickness? Or would the cultivation of such freedoms require a normal climate permeated by tranquillity, peace of mind, and stability?

Dr. al-Duri added: The Iraqi people blame the U.S.-Atlantic aggression, the ensuing blockade, and the daily threats and terrorism for what has been happening in Iraq. Every day we hear threats to resume the use of force against Iraq. He affirmed that this is not the proper climate for the growth and nurturing of democratic freedoms.

In reply to what was contained in one of the paragraphs of the resolution, the head of the Iraqi delegation unequivocally confirmed that not a single political prisoner is being held or detained in Iraqi jails for political reasons. All those who had been involved in riots have been released, with the exception of those who were referred to the courts.

Elaborating on this point, he added: A total of 1,100 people were referred to the courts. Of these, 725 were released, while various sentences were handed down to 25 other people. The cases of 61 people are still being examined by the courts. Furthermore, death sentences were handed down to 11 persons. Twenty-six people were released because the evidence against them was found to be insufficient. [numbers as received]

The head of the delegation wondered: Why has the special rapporteur failed to mention this in his report? Indeed, he was supplied with lists of the names of all these people. He added that the answer to this question, of course, lies with the special rapporteur and those from whom he receives instructions.

DPK Retracts Claim That Iran Bombed Kurds

NC0503180992 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 5 (AFP)—An Iraqi Kurdish rebel group here Thursday withdrew an accusation that Iran had joined Turkey in bombing villages in Iraqi Kurdistan on Monday.

"Iran has always been a refuge for the oppressed Kurdish people," said the Tehran representative of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), which belongs to the Kurdistan Front coalition.

On Monday, a spokesman for the Front in Paris accused Iranian as well as Turkish planes of bombing Kurdish villages in northern Iraq.

"It is the first time the Iranians have done the same thing as the Turks," the spokesman said, adding that 12 people were killed and five injured in the Turkish raids, which were confirmed by Ankara.

But the DPK spokesman told AFP that "this report was transmitted by mistake to our brothers in Paris."

On Tuesday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry also denied it had bombed Iraqi Kurdish villages and charged that the Kurdistan Front had been "irresponsible."

Israeli General Baraq's Remarks on Weapons 'Lies'

JN0503190192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Commentary carried within the "Spotlight on the News" program—read by Ra'id Ahmad]

[Excerpt] The announcement today by General Ehud Baraq, Zionist chief of staff, that Iraq possesses hundreds of long-range missiles and thousands of chemical warheads was not a coincidence. The Zionists want to continue the campaign of slander and lies against Iraq.

In an interview with the Zionist army magazine BAMAHANE published today, Thursday, the Zionist military official said: There will be no peace whatsoever between Israel and its neighbors as long as President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

It is not strange for the Zionists to make such rancorous utterances against Iraq. Past events proved that the Zionist entity designed plots against Iraq and that the Zionist entity fully participated in the U.S.-led 30-state aggression against the Iraqi people whether in preparations for the aggression or in the bestial military attack that targeted Iraq's awakening and its cultural, economic, and scientific pillars.

The Zionist chief of staff's slanders fall within the framework of a new campaign instigated by the U.S. Administration and its allies against Iraq. Meanwhile, world public opinion condemns the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people and calls for breaking this unjust blockade which no longer has any legal justification.

It has become clear that the Americans and their Atlantic and Zionist allies state lies and accusations against Iraq whenever there are signs of the alleviation of the blockade against Iraq due to the intensified international pressure and the disappearance of all excuses and pretexts used by the aggressors to justify their blockade and aggression against Iraq.

The new lies launched by the Zionist chief of staff come at a time when a high-ranking Iraqi delegation is getting ready to go to New York to discuss the blockade at the Security Council.

What exposes the falsehood of the Zionist allegations and slander is the fact that the international inspection teams which visited Iraq recently affirmed more than once that Iraq does not possess any kind of weapon of mass destruction and that Iraq demonstrated its full cooperation in implementing the paragraphs of Security Council Resolution 687 on the destruction of strategic weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency officially affirmed that the 10th nuclear inspection team has

not found any evidence of new activities relating to Iraq's nuclear program. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil Inaugurates Temporary Baghdad Bridge

JN0303185392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1820 GMT 3 Mar 92

[From the "Our Press Today" program]

[Excerpts] As part of its reporting on reconstruction efforts, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes a news report on the inauguration of a bridge near the 14 July Suspension Bridge.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic, yesterday inaugurated a temporary bridge near the site of the 14 July Suspension Bridge. The temporary bridge was built to permit construction and repair access to the permanent bridge, which was damaged during the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq. [passage omitted]

The ceremony marking the opening of the service bridge was attended by Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid al-'Ubaydi, senior under secretary at the military industrialization organization, and by the head and members of the commission for repairing the suspension bridge.

Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic, yesterday inspected the progress of work being done to repair the headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, which suffered heavy bomb damage from aircraft of the tyrannical 30-state aggression.

Defense Minister Tours Army Operational Sector

JN0303182692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Over the last four days fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, has inspected the operational sector of the 5th Army Corps. During this time he met with the Army corps commander, his staff officers, divisional commanders, officers, and fighters in the presence of the secretary of the Ba'th Party 'Ammuriyah [word indistinct] Branch Command, who holds the rank of staff major general. [Words indistinct] the values and (?sovereignty) of great Iraq [words indistinct] the agent traitors [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid [words indistinct] the problems and difficulties obstructing work in the operational sector. He ordered that these problems and difficulties be overcome and that quick, appropriate solutions be found.

He also emphasized the need for all levels of command to pay attention to training, which, with time and experience, will serve to polish the fighter's personality and constantly improve his performance. This then will deny the opportunity to do so to anyone who is tempted to infringe on the glory and pride of the Iraqis, who demonstrated the greatest examples of jihad cohesion during the major battle of the immortal Mother of Battles to foil consecutive chapters of treachery against our (?steadfast) people.

The defense minister was accompanied on his inspection tour by the fighter Army assistant chief of staff for operations, who holds the rank of staff major general.

Correction to Ramadan Rejects UN Resolutions

WA0603130892

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ramadan 'Vehemently' Rejects UN Resolutions" published in the 4 March issue of the Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, p. 21:

Column one, paragraph two, sentence one, make read: ...Resolutions 706 and 708 [number as published] regardless of the... (supplying editorial notation)

Delegation Returns, Comments on Peace Talks

TA0503182992

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 5 March reports: "The members of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks returned from Washington this evening. In a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, the heads of the delegation said the talks with the Arab delegations were important, even if the sides did not touch upon matters of substance."

Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 5 March carries recorded interviews in Hebrew with the heads of the Israeli delegation. Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the delegation to the talks with Syria, says: "We had a dialogue. I do not know whether it led to any substantive progress, but we had a dialogue. We are trying to understand each other's intentions. What we have discerned in the Syrians is not exactly encouraging, but at least we know with what and with whom we are dealing—and I think that also counts for something, even though the Syrians are impatient, and the only word they want to here from us is withdrawal."

Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the delegation to the talks with the Jordanians and Palestinians, notes: "The atmosphere in the talks on the Israeli-Jordanian track was quite relaxed. We touched informally upon issues pertaining to cooperation and bilateral relations concerning water, energy, and other items, in addition to the political issues. There are gaps in our positions, but we are working on an agenda. As for discussion on interim arrangements within the Palestinian track—although the atmosphere was tenser, we talked and we will continue to talk."

Yosef Hadas, head of the delegation to the talks with Lebanon, states: "We should not forget that it took the Palestinians two rounds of talks until they agreed to honor previous agreements. They still tried to pull some tricks to bring about what they are seeking, which is recognition as an independent delegation. We continued to talk. At least now on the Israeli-Palestinian track we have started to exchange papers and talk in more practical terms. That is also something; it is a beginning."

Sources Praise U.S. Stand on Palestinian Plan

TA0603110892 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political sources in Jerusalem have voiced their satisfaction with the U.S. negative response to the Palestinian document presented to Israel in the peace talks, as reflected in the remarks of a senior Washington official yesterday. Israel believes the document sets the course for the establishment of a Palestinian state, whereas according to all prior understandings with the United States and the Palestinians, the peace talks are supposed to lead to autonomy or to interim arrangements in the territories. Nevertheless, the sources said they would wait for other U.S. reactions before making more specific comments on the U.S. official's remarks. [passage omitted]

Aide Rejects Syrian Idea of Postponing Talks

TA0503142592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser, has said that Israel rejects the Syrian suggestion that the next stages of the peace talks be postponed until after the Knesset elections. According to him, Israel believes there is no link between the talks and the elections. He noted that progress was made in the talks and that the delegations started discussing matters of substance.

Levi Camp Meets To Discuss Future Steps

TA0603114392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Mar 92 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Leading members of Foreign Minister David Levi's camp in the Likud met last night in Tel Aviv to discuss the possibility of pulling out of the Likud and setting up a new party that would be led by Levi and whose cause would be fighting discrimination and dealing with social and economic issues.

Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper Azran led the discussion on breaking up the Likud and presented a plan for establishing a new party. Other participants expressed their opposition to breaking away. Levi did not express an unequivocal position on the issue. "Talk about a new party gives me the shivers, but nonetheless I understand the feelings of those members who want us to quit," he said.

Yesterday's meeting was the first of a series planned by the leaders of the Levi camp following their defeat in the Likud Central Committee election of the septets.

In the stormy meeting, which lasted more than four hours, harsh criticism was voiced against Prime Minister Shamir and against the alliance that was formed between Moshe Arens and Ari'el Sharon. Participants in the meeting included all the Levi associates who ran for spots on the 50-member panel; Jewish Agency Treasurer Me'ir Shitrit, who declared his full allegiance to the Levi camp; and Knesset Member Aharon Abu-Hatzera.

Most of the discussion focused on analyzing the defeat. Some individuals claimed that it was expected and that consultations must now be held on ways to deal with the defeat and with the Arens-Sharon alliance, which, they claim, seeks to gain control of the Likud. [passage omitted]

Levi, who listened attentively to his associates' remarks, said that he has been pushed into a corner within his party. He pointed out that the world has now been given

the impression that the hawkish line within the Likud has won and that this signifies opposition to autonomy and to peace arrangements.

"World media have presented Sharon as the big winner. Does this mean that the Likud has now adopted a line that rejects autonomy, in contravention of the Camp David accords and of what Menahem Begin affixed his signature to?" Levi asked. According to him, the results of the Likud elections, as they are seen in the world, could have serious consequences for Israel's international standing. He stressed that he has no doubt that the intention of his rivals was and is "to finish off David Levi."

Levi also spoke emotionally about his attachment to all that is embodied in Likud headquarters at Metzudat Ze'ev and recounted how he grew up and matured within the movement from which he is now estranged. "There are questions that I do not understand. Why did they do this to me? Why did they make a pact with Sharon? How did Dan Meridor agree to accept Sharon's backing?" Levi attempted to justify the harsh things that he said the night of the Likud internal elections and which made the Central Committee members furious with him. Levi claimed that had he not delivered that speech, not one member of his inner circle or of his camp would have won a spot on the panel. He pointed out that his remarks were meant to hearten his camp.

No decisions were made at the meeting, but it was agreed to call a meeting of all Central Committee members affiliated with the Levi camp as early as next week.

Sharon on Outcome of Likud Vote, Loan Guarantees

TA0603124792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Report by Ron Nesi'el]

[Excerpt] Minister Ari'el Sharon showed self-assurance and even a sense of humor when he addressed the Tel Aviv University Students Union. We should not take political life too seriously, he said, in reference to the bitterness in the Levi camp after the results of the elections in the Likud septets became known. It is not possible that on Sunday night it was pure democracy and on Monday, when the results became known, it is a conspiracy, Sharon said. There was no conspiracy; there were deals, and there is nothing wrong with that. I had said that I would vote for people whose political line is similar to mine.

Referring to the loan guarantees, Sharon said that settlement is not the problem. The reason for the U.S. opposition is quite different. It is clear to the Americans that the more the Jewish population in Judaea and Samaria grows, the lower the chances that we will be pushed back to the 1967 borders. In view of that, he has a suggestion for the government:

[Begin Sharon recording] First, considering the situation that has been created, I would give up the whole thing. I would tell them: Thank you very much, but we pass; and I would make a very big effort to raise those funds from other sources. [end recording]

By other sources, Sharon proposes raising funds through Israel Bonds, for example. He believes it is possible to double the amount Israel raises from U.S. Jewry. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Against Process Issue Manifesto

TA0603111492 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Mar 92 p 4

[Report by Yoram Binur and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinians opposed to the peace talks with Israel began collecting signatures from inhabitants of the territories yesterday on a manifesto objecting to the continuation of the negotiations. 'Ali Abu-Hilal (a Democratic Front member), Dr. Riyad al-Maliki (who is identified with the Popular Front), and Asad al-Asad (chairman of the Writers Association in the territories) called a news conference in Jerusalem during which they read the manifesto. Once all the signatures have been collected, the manifesto will be sent to Yasir 'Arafat, members of the Palestine National Council and Revolutionary Council, and leaders of other Palestinian factions.

The manifesto, worded in relatively moderate language, reads: "Large sectors of the Palestinian people are terribly concerned about the way in which political activities have been conducted since the Madrid conference. Israel continues to escalate its colonization policy, confiscate land, and deport our people, and its conduct is handsomely rewarded by the United States, which plays a key role in the process. It is now clear that the U.S.-Israeli partnership is designed to lead to the annihilation of the Palestinians as a people."

The authors condensed the manifesto into five main points:

—The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

—Palestinian positions must be adhered to and the concession of rights must stop.

—The problem must be solved with international assistance and based on international consensus.

—The land and the people are one integral and inseparable part.

—A demand must be issued to halt and remove settlements and to stop any other move pertaining to the occupation.

The organizers had planned to hold the rally at the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem, but policemen of

the minorities department in Jerusalem arrived at the site a few hours before the meeting and presented them with an order closing the theater for a year. Da'ud Kuttab, secretary of the society running the theater, reacted by saying: "This step means that East Jerusalem is being treated like other parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Islamic List Wins in Ramallah Chamber of Commerce

TA0403113092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Islamic List won a stunning victory in the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce elections. All of that list's 10 candidates will become members of the Chamber's executive. An 11th candidate had previously been disqualified by the Civil Administration because he had been arrested in the past for hostile terrorist activity. He will be replaced by a representative of the Nationalist List. The Islamic List is headed by As'ad Hasuna and Muhammad Amin, who received the most votes. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that these were the first elections in 26 years to the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce. Some 90 percent of eligible voters participated in the elections.

Chief of Staff on Security, Iraq, Multiyear Plan

TA0503171192 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 4 Mar 92 pp 19-23

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of the General Staff, by Hanokh Qaftzan and Yuval Natan; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [BAMAHANE] Has the situation in south Lebanon returned to the status quo that prevailed before al-Musawi was killed, or is it the calm before the storm?

[Baraq] It is not the same situation. First of all, this is "status quo" without al-Musawi, which is not an insignificant change. I do not believe it is right to pigeonhole realities, but it can be said that we have dealt them a very heavy blow. We expected the arrival of katyushas. The Intelligence Branch had assessed in advance that a wave of katyushas would follow. It also asserted that if we find the right way to respond vigorously, the odds are that the onslaught will stop—which is what happened. We could not do these things without paying a price, and the price was heavy and painful, but a part of the battle nevertheless.

[BAMAHANE] Should we understand from your remarks that Israel will retaliate at once if more katyushas are fired in the near future?

[Baraq] Nothing should be taken for granted. We will definitely not help anyone understand anything by providing specifics of what will be done in the future. In general, it can be said that we expect them to avoid such incidents in the future. If they do not, we will have to consider what to do with them. [passage omitted]

[BAMAHANE] With your permission, let us move on to another issue: How do you view the disarmament moves in Iraq?

[Baraq] A very important thing is happening in Iraq. A very powerful enemy of the State of Israel was confronted, defeated, and seriously weakened by a worldwide coalition; that enemy is now much less relevant to immediate developments in the Middle East. Iraq's nonconventional weaponry was seriously damaged, too, and yet for various reasons, it insisted on preserving this capability even in the face of international inspection. It should be remembered that when the UN commissions were set up, everyone believed the task was negligible and would be completed in no time. Now it is clear that the work will involve years, and not weeks or months. The Iraqis are not cooperating, and we believe they still have hundreds of Scud missiles and thousands of chemical artillery warheads and bombs.

[BAMAHANE] Does this present an immediate risk to us?

[Baraq] Technically, these missiles still constitute a considerable portion of their operational potential. I believe that in the near future, because of political and other reasons, Iraq will not begin military activity against us, although if circumstances change, its potential will be dangerous. Basically, I am referring to the potential inherent in expertise. They have sufficient expertise to return to the nuclear path as soon as the commissions complete their work. Everywhere, people are now wondering what happened to the man whose insolence aroused the entire world to rally against him and actually fight him. They are asking how Saddam could possibly get up after such a blow, and then not even pay the price. The international community ought to decide that the fall of Saddam Husayn should be a prerequisite for a new world order. His fall will prove that the international community is capable of enforcing decisions and protecting its interests. In my opinion, there will be no peace in this region—between us and our neighbors, either—as long as Saddam remains ensconced. The cohesive power of such an order—if one is achieved—which stems from, among other things, the acknowledgment of the new world balance, will be unreliable and unconvincing if the beaten Iraqis remain a superpower with nonconventional capability. Everyone understands that this issue is very important. For that reason, I believe the UN commissions will be insisted on. This will signal to the Iraqis that there is no way they can carry on their evasion, that they have to disband everything. If the Iraqis do not get the message, we will see a growing number of warnings and threats, and the possibility that this will end in physical confrontation cannot be ruled out. I hope the Iraqis will be intelligent enough to remember that the world has already proven it will not be deterred by anything.

[BAMAHANE] Has Iraq's survival enhanced Libya's and Iran's motivation in that respect?

[Baraq] In my opinion, if and when Saddam Husayn is toppled, the international community will find it easier to turn to other elements, whose nonconventional buildup threatens stability in the region, and demand that they stop the process.

[BAMAHANE] How is Israel preparing for the future when the Middle East becomes rife with nuclear weapons?

[Baraq] The region is not yet rife with nuclear weapons. Efforts in that direction are being made, but I do not think it is either wise or necessary for me to address the issue now.

[BAMAHANE] With your permission, we would like to move on to the question of internal security. Can unsophisticated terrorist attacks by small groups be prevented?

[Baraq] We must lower the number of attacks to zero. As with other complex and complicated struggles involving a civilian population, however, there is no way of making absolutely sure that there will never be any more attacks. The fact that there is no way to make sure there will be no attacks should not enfeeble us. We must do everything in our power to reduce the number of attacks. A very intensive effort is under way to deal with gangs using firearms in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This effort is largely based on the activities of the Shin Bet and the police. It calls for professionalism, intelligence-gathering, perseverance, and a lot of patience, because it does not yield results overnight. At the same time, we are trying to keep street violence to a very low level, and we have significantly improved safety along the roadside. There is a lot of undercover activity in the field—not just soldiers posing as Arabs, but other operations. What you see is only the tip of the iceberg. A great deal of activity is under way, and it is showing results in the field.

[BAMAHANE] In view of their success, do you intend to increase the use of soldiers posing as Arabs?

[Baraq] Their activity is constantly expanding and improving. It is a very important and efficient activity.

[BAMAHANE] Some describe the IDF's new multiyear plan as revolutionary. How would you describe it?

[Baraq] Instead of being labeled, it should be judged by its long-term results. We are persistently striving in directions we consider very important in order to make gradual changes in various areas. An army is built over a long period of time. Developing weapons and changing methods of operation of a large organization such as the IDF is a slow process by definition, because it involves a large number of people and because it has an evolutionary, step-by- step nature. If we reach all the objectives we are striving for, I leave it to others to determine whether the results are revolutionary. I would not use such adjectives.

In general, when very intense work is done over a long period of time, one runs the danger of blurring the objective, and that is why we must make our objective clear. Our primary goal is to build up the Army, to divert funds from daily operations to buildup, research, and development. Our emphasis is on elements such as firepower in general and precision firepower in particular, maneuverability, and better resistance. We want to be able to gain the upper hand in combat faster, fight around the clock, be more effective in night combat and fighting in harsh weather conditions, and shorten the time it takes for intelligence to reach the field. To attain those objectives we operate through various channels, since none of them can do the job separately. To this end we use both long-established methods and methods we have been developing in recent years. We could have done none of these things had it not been for the efforts of all our predecessors in key positions in the Army. Today, we are clearly benefiting from the long years invested in the design of capabilities that enable us to build up the Army better. I do not feel we are starting anything from scratch. Had it not been for the inroads made by our predecessors, we could have done nothing. I do not think we will finish the task. We will merely complete another phase and pass it on to our successors.

We want to establish a routine, to bring inventories up to standards, and to provide units with all they need to carry out their missions. Established routines, supply of manpower and materiel, and the establishment of norms and standards will make it easier to demand from commanders responsibility for the missions entrusted to them.

I think it is very important to enforce a tradition of learning lessons, objective reporting, and real work on details, even if this inflicts pain on the Army and is publicly embarrassing. I believe such a tradition is enforced effectively in vast sections of the Army, such as in combat squadrons and elite units. Objective reporting is very important, and a military unit cannot survive without it. We stress the importance of objective reporting through various means. Progress is made constantly, and I am optimistic about this issue.

Investing in career soldiers, both officers and NCO's, and listening to their needs constitute a central effort that covers many areas, including career plans and the pursuit of academic studies.

All those things require money. There is no chance of building an army capable of carrying out the missions entrusted to it unless there is a comprehensive effort to save and become more efficient. The IDF spends almost $15 million a day, which is an enormous sum. We belong to a country that lives with harsh economic conditions, and that is why the effort for efficiency must be very concentrated.

For example, for years we have been cutting back on reserve duty by directing regular soldiers to jobs that used to be done by reservists. We have been cutting personnel, both officers and NCO's. We have been cutting costs on things such as the use of the telephone;

we saved about 20 million shekels this year, and I think we can yet save some more. We have temporarily reduced ground training and, to a lesser extent, air training. I am sure we will not be able to live with such a low level of training for more than one or two years. We have slashed investments in infrastructure to save money for weapons, but these cutbacks have not been enough. We have also reduced the number of military units and diverted the money to build up the Army. This has resulted in many operational difficulties, but without such cutbacks we will not be able to create the capability to perform more efficiently in the next war.

[BAMAHANE] Are you not taking a risk with such a plan? If it fails, will the IDF not suffer a setback in all those areas?

[Baraq] I do not think we are taking any risk. The Army's power structure is based on hierarchy, and does not resemble any other organization. One can say about some organizations, sometimes with reason, that "they must do something, but cannot." That is not the case with the Army; one can safely say about it that it can do anything. We have the means to attain anything we think should be given priority if we persevere.

[BAMAHANE] Even if you do not know whether you will get the budget?

[Baraq] We do not print money. Our job is to deal with security with the help of motivated people (whom we have), Israel's technological strength (which we have), and money. Obviously, we need all three elements, but we will have to counter the lack of funds by making painful concessions. Whatever is left will have to be very good and will have to improve constantly. [passage omitted]

Shamir Confers With Visiting Kazakh Minister

TA0503122192 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 5 Mar 92

[Communication by the prime minister's media adviser]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, yesterday (Wednesday), 4.3.92, met with Kasym Tyulebekov, the Agriculture Minister of Kazakhstan.

The Prime Minister told the guest that Israel has a great interest in the strengthening of ties and in cooperation with Kazakhstan, in numerous fields—primarily in the area of agriculture, since it is this area that Israel can share its experience and rich knowledge with Kazakhstan.

The Agriculture Minister of Kazakhstan emphasized that his country, which has an abundance of natural resources, is mainly interested in advanced technological knowledge—which exists in Israel—and that it is the intention of his government to request the assistance of Israel in the development of food-oriented industries, cotton growing, milk production and sophisticated irrigation methods.

Soldier, 'Terrorist' Killed in Gaza Strip Clash

TA0503172692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, 20-year-old Corporal Barukh Ben-Shim'on from Zefat, was killed today in a clash with terrorists near Bani Suhaylah in the Gaza Strip. One terrorist was killed and eight were apprehended in the clash.

The IDF spokesman reports that an IDF unit arrived in Bani Suhaylah at around 1100 this morning to apprehend wanted men. A Kalashnikov rifle was fired from a backyard, and Corporal Barukh Ben-Shim'on was killed. His colleagues returned the fire, killed the terrorist who had shot, wounded another one, and apprehended seven terrorists. They were found in possession of an Uzi submachine gun, a Kalashnikov rifle, four guns, knives, and hatchets. The wanted men had been operating in the villages adjacent to Khan Yunus for a long time and were involved in the murder of several local Arabs.

King's Tour To Underline 'Crucial' Peace Role

JN0503100892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir and Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn's scheduled talks with American leaders next week are expected to underline Jordan's crucial role in the Middle East peace process and signal the heavy strain during the Gulf crisis.

Jordanian officials said the timing of the King's talks with President George Bush, set for March 12, had special importance, coming as they are in the footsteps of the fourth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations in Washington. The talks also take place against the run-up to Israeli general elections in June and the launching in earnest of the American presidential election campaign. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, architect of the Middle East peace process, will attend the meeting between King Husayn and President Bush.

The White House talks "will send a clear message to the Gulf Arab states, which have refused to reconcile with Amman over its Gulf war stand, that Washington does not support their boycott of Jordan," said one official.

Commenting on Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries King Husayn said Monday in an interview with the French news agency AFP that a thaw in ties between Jordan and the Gulf Arab states was forseeable in the near future because the stands taken by the Kingdom during the Gulf crisis "were based on its keenness to preserve the interests of all the countries concerned."

The meeting also comes in the midst of the U.S.-Israeli dispute over American loan guarantees for Israel after the Bush administration linked the guarantees to a freeze in the Jewish state's settlement activity in the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has welcomed the U.S. move as an expression of "a serious U.S. commitment to the peace process."

The March 12 meeting will be the first between the King and Mr. Bush since August 1990, when the King met the president in Kennebunkport, Maine, to try to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

According to officials in Amman and Washington, the talks will deal with ways to advance the stalled Middle East peace process, the situation in Iraq and American economic assistance to Jordan.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Monday President Bush "would certainly discuss (with the King) the situation in Iraq today, the need to enforce and maintain the U.N. sanctions."

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Bush would stress that the United States opposes lifting the sanctions until Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is no longer in power and would ask the King to "be supportive in every way possible."

Jordan has repeatedly called for lifting the sanctions on Iraq to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people, but has reaffirmed its commitment to the U.N. embargo on Iraq.

King Husayn, in his interview with AFP, stressed that Jordan is committed to implementing Security Council resolutions against Iraq despite the "old and close relations between the Jordanian and the Iraqi peoples."

Mr. Baker told the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee last week that Jordan's role was vital in continuing the peace process, and urged the House to increase aid for Jordan to $77 million from $55 million. He said the proposed aid would help the Kingdom maintain stability and help it absorb 300,000 expatriates who returned from Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Jordan has already received a $20 million low-interest loan from the U.S. to help it purchase 115,000 tonnes of wheat.

The Jordanian official who spoke to the Jordan Times did not rule out the possibility that officials accompanying the King may seek American assistance to reduce the Kingdom's $7.2 billion foreign debt.

"We are not talking about debt relief," said the official. "We are talking about the need for debt reduction similar to that offered to Egypt."

He pointed out that although Jordan has reached a debt rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club, "the rescheduling process only postpones and accumulates our debts."

Rescheduling "may provide us with debt relief for the short term, but what we need is debt reduction to reduce our foreign commitments and restart the economy," he added.

Citing Algeria as an example, the official warned that "the U.S. must realise that economic pressures such as the ones we are facing are bound to strengthen the hands of extremists of all kinds." He said that Jordan's ability to stay committed to its democratisation process and its participation in the Middle East peace process depended on how well it could tackle the economic crisis.

The King's visit to the U.S. is part of a five-nation tour which also includes Iceland, Canada, France and Germany.

The King will make an overnight stop in Iceland on his way to Canada and will discuss the peace process and bilateral ties with Icelandic leaders.

His visit to Canada, the King said in the AFP interview, was mainly aimed at "thanking Canada for its support of our position and for understanding our situation in the past period, as well as for their continued support."

Officials and analysts noted that Canada has always been very supportive of Jordan and its policies and extended financial and technical assistance to the Kingdom in various fields, most prominently in oil exploration. It has given Jordan close to $33 million in oil exploration aid and another $23 million in direct grant to offset Jordan's losses as a result of the Gulf crisis.

The inclusion of France and Germany in the King's itinerary was described by official sources as reflection of the importance that Jordan attaches to these two countries in the emerging "new world order and their special relations with the Kingdom."

"France is the only Western country with strong relations with African and most Arab countries," noted a senior official. "It also happens to be the only European power which maintains strong political and economic influence in North Africa despite the end of the colonial era."

"France has consistently provided Jordan with both political and financial support," he added.

Germany, on the other hand, has assumed a new role in Europe in the apaprent vaccum left behind by the U.S., which seems to have lost interest in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the official noted.

"Germany is gradually assuming the leading voice in Europe after the reunification of the country and strong relationship are emerging between Bonn and Eastern European countries," he said. "No doubt, Germany will soon become a major power to reckon with in any international equation."

Germany extended to Jordan aid worth around $400 million to offset the Kingdom's losses in the Gulf crisis. In per capita terms, Jordan is the biggest recipient of German assistance, steady since many years.

In general, the official said, the King will also purfue means to bolster the European profile in the peace process. The oficial said that the European countries, "sidelined in the bilaterals, have a major role to play in the multilateral phase of the peace process."

Statements by Iraq's 'Aziz on Reconciliation Hit

JN0203163592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Mar 92 p 9

[Article by Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir, leader of the Unionist Democratic Grouping: "Remarks on Tariq 'Aziz Statements"]

[Excerpts] We have read the interview with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by "The File" program, broadcast by Iraqi Television and published by AL-DUSTUR; as well as his statements to Nahid Hattar and Khayri Mansur, published by AL-DUSTUR in three installments, the last on 23 February 1992. There is no doubt that these statements motivated many people in Jordan to comment, and to review once again the issue of Iraq in this difficult and complicated time in our pan-Arab life.

I do not know whether or not the time is ripe to analyze what happened or what will happen to this dear and important Arab state, particularly since it is not sufficient merely to review and assess the events that took place, despite the importance of this review and assessment. The basic issue is to draw up a framework for the future, which will inevitably reflect on the Arab region in general, and Jordan in particular, for reasons that need no further explanation. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz said that the government's doors are open to all, and Iraq's doors are open to those who want to return from abroad. He said, however, that those who were outside Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war and during the Gulf crisis—which later became the Gulf war—will not participate in political life. Those who left Iraq because of their stand on one or both of these wars did so out of fear for their lives and daily bread. National reconciliation does not mean giving freedom of expression to those who want to express their opinion, but withholding it from those who opposed this or that war and this or that stand.

The required reconciliation means—as in every time and place—that the decisionmakers and those in power must take the initiative, particularly after crises that take place during their rule, to call on everyone to hold a dialogue and participate in power and decisionmaking. "All," in politics, means all factions, despite attempts to deny factionalism; all sects, despite attempts to belittle sectarianism; all parties; and all social, political, unionist, and military forces. The dialogue would produce a broad government that could address every faction of the Iraqi people; attract expatriates back to their country; and speak with world governments, parties, popular organizations, and nations.

We are aware that there are Iraqis inside Iraq who work to achieve this kind of reconciliation, and who do not make any plots. We call for the closing of the chapter of conspiracies opened by Husni al-Za'im in Syria in 1949. Faris al-Khuri [former Syrian prime minister] was afraid that this chapter of conspiracy would prevail in the Arab nation for 50 years. We call for further democracy and Arabism in Egypt, but we do not call for plotting against it. We call for more civilian—not military—pressure on all the region's Arab rulers, through pan-Arab and regional efforts that reassure the rulers that the chapters of conspiracy, coups d'etat, and military adventures will be closed as we conclude the 50 years Faris al-Khuri spoke of. These efforts should include the Syrian, Saudi, and the Tunisian regimes, as well as all the Arab regimes.

Tariq 'Aziz said: "We embarked on an essential step on the path of making a democratic political life by enacting a law for political parties that will allow any rightist, leftist, or socialist nationalist to undertake legal political action. Although several months have passed since the

law was issued, no request to form a party has been presented." Why did Tariq 'Aziz not ask himself about the existence of some 50 would-be political parties in Jordan—whose population is one quarter or less than Iraq's—or about the 50 political parties that participated in the Algerian elections?

In his answer to a question by Nahid Hattar and Khayri Mansur on national reconciliation among the parties to the Iraqi national movement, 'Aziz said: "We informed everyone that we are ready for dialogue. If anyone asks for a meeting with any party or government official, we will immediately prepare for this." I wrote to a senior Iraqi official urging national reconciliation and expansion of the regime's base, and the announcement of a date for general elections for all executive and legislative posts, including the presidency.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that the Iraqi regime is unionist. They have been in power for 25 years. When has a single unionist step been taken? It is easy to raise a slogan, until you assume power; then you will find excuses not to implement this slogan. It is also easy to hold others responsible for all mistakes and sins.

In any case, only two steps are now required from our brothers in Iraq: Expanding the base of the regime and implementing parliamentary life. There is no parliamentary life that we like and another that we do not like. There is no special parliamentary life for France, another for Britain, and a third for the United States. Parliamentary democracy means one thing; namely, elections. It differs from one country to another with regard to the distribution of departments, authorities, and parties. Therefore, there is no special democracy for Iraq.

I am fully confident that the correct path for our brothers in Iraq is to announce a date for elections without further delay, as the Soviet states did after more than seven decades, and as the Eastern European countries did after more than four decades. I am fully certain that if the people elected Saddam Husayn as their president, and this is entirely possible; elected Tariq 'Aziz and his colleagues as ministers, and this also possible; and elected most or some of the members of the National Assembly in addition to others, the world could not continue the blockade of Iraq. This is the real test.

Prince Hasan Returns From Talks in Turkey

JN0603061992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman last night after a one-day official visit to Turkey.

The crown prince met in Ankara last night with Turkish President Turgut Ozal, during which he conveyed to him the greetings of his majesty the king, and his majesty's wishes for prosperity and progress to the Turkish people. His royal highness also discussed with President Ozal several issues related to the situation in the area in general, and matters of mutual interest in particular. The crown prince asserted Jordan's keenness in consulting with Turkey for the sake of boosting bilateral relations and strengthening Arab-Turkish ties.

Suspension of Conscription Law Considered

JN0403143992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The Prime Minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, said that the government intends to suggest to parliament that the Council of Ministers be given the power to suspend the conscription law.

He said the government will propose that the conscription law be suspended, and not revoked, for a period of time to be designated by the cabinet. If conditions warrant again that the conscription law be continued in the future, the cabinet will issue a decision to this effect.

Addressing the House of Representatives today, the prime minister said when the People's Army is reorganized, it will undertake the military training of all young men and women in a way that would qualify them to carry out duties that are supportive of the Armed Forces.

'Extraordinary' Cabinet Meeting Held on Economy

NC0603070592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] A general strike is to be observed in Beirut and the provinces today to protest the worsening economic situation. This situation prompted the cabinet to hold an extraordinary meeting last night, which lasted until early dawn today.

The cabinet formed an emergency ministerial committee tasked with dealing with economic and social security. The committee is made up of Ministers Michel al-Murr, Khatchig Babikian, Michel Sasin, 'Ali al-Khalil, Marwan Hamadah, Sami al-Khatib, and Albert Mansur. The committee will meet at the Government Palace at 1300 today.

The cabinet announced that the policy of reducing expenditures, obtaining revenue, and raising the interest on treasury bonds will continue, and decided to freeze the price of bread and fix the prices of fuel and medicine.

The cabinet reiterated the ban on money exchangers working beyond office hours, threatening to cancel the license of violators. A statement issued by the cabinet warned against raising the prices of bread, fuel, and medicine—and the legal profit rates of all other goods—under penalty of detention. Security forces have instituted patrols to help control the situation in all provinces. Instructions have been issued to the public prosecution to arrest violators and refer them to the extraordinary fraud and monopoly court for immediate trial.

The government urged all trade union and party forces and the media to rise to the level of national responsibility by creating a spirit of solidarity in the face of the crisis, instead of contributing to its escalation.

The cabinet's statement said that some exploit the people's suffering to achieve gains at the expense of the peace process; instead of alleviating the crisis, they help paralyze production, increase inflation, raise prices, and strike at social security.

Major General Muhammad Qubrusly, internal security forces director general; Michel al-Khuri, Central Bank Governor; and Maurice Khawwam, Appeals Court Public Prosecutor, also attended the meeting. Six ministers did not attend the meeting.

'All-Out' General Strike Observed

NC0603102892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] In response to a call by the General Labor Federation, a general and all-out strike is being observed throughout the country today, to protest the high price of food and consumer goods and the fall in the value of the Lebanese pound against foreign currencies.

Antoine Badran, Beirut International Airport director, said airport traffic stopped at 0900 and will resume at 1100 today. Work stopped for two hours while employees went on a march to call for drastic measures to fix the deteriorating economy.

Hizballah Reports Attacks on Israelis, Militia

NC0603074592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Resistance men last night attacked with rockets and machine guns a position held by the occupation and its Lahdist militia in the western sector, inflicting a number of casualties on the personnel manning the post. The enemy radio acknowledged the attack, claiming that the post suffered no casualties.

The resistance men detonated an explosive charge as an occupation mechanized patrol passed the Kafr Tibnit crossing in al-Nabatiyah. The patrol was destroyed and its members were killed or wounded.

Amal Claims Ambush

NC0603094392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Amal Movement has revealed that the Martyr Mahmud Haydar Group detonated three explosive devices on the Arnun Road last night as an Israeli patrol passed. Israeli forces immediately sent reinforcements to the area to evacuate the dead and wounded.

In a statement today, the Amal Movement pledged to continue its resistance activity until southern Lebanon is liberated.

Armenian Foreign Minister Ovanesyan Visits

Buwayz Comments on Ties

NC0403134792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan arrived at Beirut Airport at noon today, and was received by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who made this statement:

[Begin Buwayz recording] It pleases us that Lebanon is receiving today his excellency the Armenian foreign minister and his delegation. As you are aware, the Armenian community in Lebanon is a source of pride for this homeland, and has given much to Lebanon in various fields.

The talks we will hold with his excellency the minister and his delegation will focus on future relations, and ways to consolidate relations between the Republic of Lebanon and the Republic of Armenia.

Lebanon was among the first states that recognized Armenia's independence and urged other states to recognize it. We will be discussing the means to build

advanced political, economic, social, and cultural relations between the two countries. [end recording]

Official Talks Commence

NC0503051492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Talks began this afternoon between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his Armenian counterpart, Raffi Ovanesyan, who is leading an official Armenian delegation to Lebanon.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, particularly the establishment of official diplomatic relations. Ministers Khatchig Babikian and Agop Zukhatarian and senior officials of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry attended.

Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, received the Armenian delegation, which was accompanied by deputies Melkon Eblighatian and Souren Khanamirian. They reviewed regional and international issues and bilateral relations.

Agreement on Diplomatic Ties Signed

NC0503072892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz hosted a banquet at the Bristol Hotel last night in honor of the visiting Armenian delegation. During the dinner, an agreement to establish diplomatic ties was signed. Diplomatic sources reported that the signing was originally scheduled for this morning at Bustrus Palace, but was held earlier because the Armenian ministerial delegation has to leave Beirut today.

Before their departure at 1000 today, the Armenian delegation will visit Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

Ovanesyan Meets al-Hirawi, Karami

NC0503155092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Raffi Ovanesyan, Armenian foreign minister, and Justice Minister Khatchig Babikian visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at their respective homes today. Ovanesyan and Karami discussed relations between Lebanon and Armenia, following the signing of a document yesterday establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

After meeting with Karami, Ovanesyan said they also discussed ways to consolidate relations in the political, economic, cultural, and financial fields. He said: We discussed the situation in southern Lebanon and how to achieve justice in that area. I also briefed Prime Minister Karami on the ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the people's right to determine their own future.

Minister Ovanesyan expressed the hope that Lebanon, which has international friendships and experience, will contribute to solving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

Minister Ovanesyan held a news conference at the Bristol Hotel at 1200 today, at which he discussed the results of his visit to Lebanon and the latest developments in the crisis between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He said that Lebanese-Armenian relations are important, in view of the long Armenian presence in Lebanon, the acquisition of their rights, and their service to the Lebanese homeland and society.

He said that the day Armenia achieved its independence is memorable because it was the second time in this era, after undergoing a process of economic, political, and social change. Only three days ago, he said, Armenia became a member of the United Nations.

He then focused on the signing of the document for the exchange of diplomatic representation with Lebanon, and said that an Armenian Embassy in Lebanon and a Lebanese Embassy in Armenia will be opened soon. He also spoke about the ongoing conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, expressing regret for the war raging there, and emphasizing that the Armenian people are determined to defend their independence to the death. He explained that the Armenians have done everything in their power to resolve this conflict peacefully, including working with international organizations and neighboring states. He said: Regrettably, these efforts were frustrated, and some people resorted to arms and war. He indicated that Armenia will seek to develop relations with Islamic states.

[Paris AFP in English at 1419 GMT on 5 March carries a similar report from Beirut which adds that Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan on Thursday proposed an independent Nagorno-Karabakh within the Commonwealth of Independent States in order to end fighting in the Armenian-populated Azerbaijani enclave.

["We think that the best possible compromise would be Karabakh becoming an independent entity inside the Commonwealth of Independent States," Raffi Ovanesyan said.]

Buwayz Views Peace Talks

NC0503134792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The document establishing diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Armenia was signed at 1300 today by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his Armenian counterpart, Raffi Ovanesyan. Members of the Armenian delegation and Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials attended.

Ovanesyan earlier met with the prime minister, and expressed hope for developing bilateral relations following the establishment of diplomatic and consular ties.

At the Foreign Ministry, Faris Buwayz had this comment to make on the outcome of the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the talks.

Our correspondent at the Foreign Ministry has the details:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Foreign Minister Buwayz said at a news conference a short time ago that the Foreign Ministry was informed by Japan and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] that they have decided to contribute $350,000 to the victims of the snowstorm—$150,000 from Japan and $150,000 from the ICO [figures as heard].

Minister Buwayz said that he was not surprised by the failure of the fourth round of Lebanese-Israeli talks, which ended in Washington yesterday. Asked about U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's stand on the outcome of the fourth round and his meeting with Ambassador Shammas, Buwayz said:

[Unidentified correspondent] Has Ambassador Shammas briefed you on the outcome of his meeting with Secretary Baker? What will the United States do now, since the outcome of the talks has been negative?

[Buwayz] Naturally, I am in constant and daily contact with the Lebanese delegation in Washington. The Lebanese delegation briefed his excellency Secretary Baker on the result of the talks so far, and on the negative Israeli stand on the principles of withdrawal and of implementing Resolution 425. The Lebanese delegation stressed that Lebanon agreed to attend this conference on the basis of this resolution being implemented; that any other marginal or alternative proposal must emanate from this principle and none other; and that any security proposal must emanate from Lebanon's stand, which calls for Israel's withdrawal first and then for discussing the timetable and the security arrangements.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, will Lebanon participate in the multilateral negotiations?

[Buwayz] We are holding the same firm stand. We said that we are not opposed to the principle of the multlateral talks. I had already said that the principle of multilateral talks is the application of a state of peace. When we see this peace and are assured that there will be peace, then we will have no objection to participating in these negotiations. But today we believe that the conference has not yet achieved the tangible progress that will justify a discussion of implementing such issues. [end recording]

Karami on Situation in South, Election Prospects

PM0203155892 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
26 Feb 92 p 8

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami by Faysal Qawwas in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Qawwas] How do you view the current situation in the south?

[Karami] The situation in the south is tragic. At any rate, Israel does not need pretexts to create tension in the south to exploit in the negotiations. We know that Israel has two objectives. The first is to intimidate us into boycotting the negotiations. That has not happened, and will not happen under any circumstance. The second is to create a new situation to stop us from demanding implementation of Resolution 425. Resistance in the south is our legitimate right. Our territory is occupied and Resolution 425, issued by the highest international legal authority, calls for unconditional withdrawal from that territory to internationally recognized borders. So UN legitimacy; human rights; our own territorial integrity; and our right to our land, sovereignty, and independence dictate to us and other nations that this territory must be liberated. This is why we say that we have a legitimate right to resist.

[Qawwas] Do you believe the Army is capable of controlling the entire area?

[Karami] We emphasize that Resolution 425 must be implemented and Israel must withdraw to internationally recognized borders. We are fully responsible for security. We say this and are pledged to it, and we say that our Army is capable of doing this, but we cannot face our people and tell them not to open fire as long as the occupation continues.

[Qawwas] What is new in the peace negotiations?

[Karami] We went to Washington to confirm the basic principle, which is that we want peace based on the implementation of Resolution 425.

We cannot sign a separate peace treaty or embark on a separate reconciliation, because that would not lead to real peace. It would only create more internal sedition. That is why the peace process moves along two lines. The first is implementation of Resolution 425, which is not linked to, and which is completely independent of, the regional issue. The second is that the overall peace process must be coordinated.

[Qawwas] Prime minister, do you believe there is a connection between the negotiations and the economic situation?

[Karami] Certainly. They are interlinked. I consider what we are witnessing in Lebanon to be a part of the presure on us, but we have made our inevitable choice. We have chosen a sound position that ensures our sovereignty, independence, and safety as a whole, at home and abroad. That is our unquestionable right.

[Qawwas] How do you view the election, which it is rumored will be held soon, and what do you think of the opposition to such elections?

[Karami] The views of the new generations must be heeded, of course, particularly since we are now going through a labor which will give birth to legislation, decisions, and institutions which could change the face of the country for the next 100 years. It is not right that the people of a country like Lebanon should not be fully represented. It is very embarrassing to hear in the media

about appointed or specified deputies. We promised that we would hold parliamentary elections at the first opportunity. For such elections to take place, there are legal, administrative, and security procedures which must be completed. There is the definition of administrative divisions, the amendment of the electoral law, and the restoration of the damaged population registers to take care of. That will be done very soon. In my view, holding elections would be much safer than the present situation. That is why the government is really serious about holding such elections at the earliest possible time, which I believe will not be later than June or July.

Al-Murr, Swedish Minister Discuss UNIFIL

NC0403152692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Swedish defense minister affirmed today that military solutions in southern Lebanon are impossible, and that the situation there is getting better. The minister was speaking following a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart, Michel al-Murr. The meeting was also attended by the Swedish ambassador to Lebanon. The discussion dealt with the situation in the south; the role of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in general, and the Swedish contingent in particular; and Lebanese-Swedish relations.

After the meeting, the Swedish minister expressed his satisfaction with the role of the UN forces, saying: I have sensed the positive attitude of Lebanese citizens in the south toward these forces. I am very pleased with the significant progress made by the Lebanese Army and the stability and security prevailing in Lebanon. I am confident in the further success of the Lebanese Army.

Answering a question, he said: Our soldiers are providing medical and humanitarian assistance to the residents, and we will continue to do that.

Answering another question, he said that the situation in the south is getting better. Military solutions are impossible and political solutions should be sought, like the negotiations that are now taking place.

Minister al-Murr explained that he briefed the Swedish ambassador on the situation in the south and the cooperation between the Lebanese Army and the UN forces. The discussion also dealt with bilateral military relations. Minister al-Murr said: We discussed the rebuilding of the Lebanese Army. We provided him with a comprehensive review so he can explain to his government the state of the Army and what progress has been achieved. Minister al-Murr denied that they discussed the Lebanese Army's deployment in UN deployment areas. He said: We briefed the Swedish minister on the talks last week with UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding. No change has taken place on this point, which calls for nondeployment of the Army alongside the UN forces.

Minister Vows No 'Retreat' From 'Drug Mafia'

NC0503134092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Major General Sami al-Khatib, interior minister, announced that the state will not retreat, but will reply to "drug mafia" messages warning that they will fire on judges' and security officers' cars.

He added: There is more than one mafia, and we will not retreat at any price, whether the mafia is local or international, because the matter concerns our generations and our survival, our role in the international community, and our world reputation.

Briton's Statement on Gulf Security Assailed

JN0503183692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 92

['Abdallah al-Dardari dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syria has affirmed that Gulf security is the responsibility of the Arabs before all others, even if Iran has a vital interest in the region's security.

In the first semi-official Syrian comment on statements by Douglas Hogg, the British minister of state for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office—in which he said that Syria and Egypt have nothing to do with Gulf security—the newspaper TISHRIN said that Gulf security is first and last an Arab responsibility, and that Syria will respond to appeals by any brother who might ask for help and assistance, without any consideration for the oil and material interests that govern the West's behavior and conduct.

Voicing surprise at Hogg's statement, TISHRIN said: How can we acknowledge that a country situated more than 5,000 km from the region, such as Britain, should be concerned with security there, while Egypt and Syria should have no connection, despite the unceasing historical and pan-Arab ties with the Gulf?

On the Iranian role, which Hogg regarded as basic, the newspaper said: We do not deny the fact that Iran has a vital connection with Gulf security, given that it is a Gulf littoral state and is a basic part of it, and that events there affect, negatively or positively, its vital interests and regional security.

It may be recalled that the Damascus Declaration, which was issued after the Gulf war, stipulates that a Syrian-Egyptian force should take care of Gulf security in addition to the armies of the region. The declaration also stipulates establishing economic and security integration between the Gulf states and both Egypt and Syria. The security part of the declaration has not yet been implemented, however. Meanwhile, some of the region's states are concluding bilateral security agreements with the United States, Britain, and France.

Iraqi Opposition Groups Gather in Damascus

NC0303161192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] In a continuing effort to topple the 'Aflaqite regime and its rotten tyrant, Iraqi opposition factions—more than 24 opposition parties and groupings—have begun meetings in Damascus. This was reported by our news sources abroad.

The meetings will discuss ways to set up a national salvation council and develop a unified plan to topple the regime, the enemy of the people. In January, representatives of the Iraqi opposition outside the homeland set up a preparatory committee for these meetings. These meetings will deal with the political-military program in addition to previously developed programs.

Israel Accused of Planning Cafe Disaster

JN0403154292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By Fayiz Qandil: "Talk of the Return"; Palestine broadcast]

[Text] Struggling brothers: Holy Jerusalem is not the only one in mourning. The cafe disaster at Herod's Gate has greatly harmed all Arabs, and has transformed every Arab home into a house of mourning over the innocent victims of Arab Jerusalem, whose death was caused by Israel. Israel will never run out of false pretexts and fabricated excuses to explain this disaster, a disaster it deliberately committed. For instance, Israel ascribes this disaster to the weakness of a cemetery wall which collapsed, and to the weakness of the Arab cafe's roof, which fell on its innocent customers. Of course, Israel also does not forget to cite the huge piles of snow. The people, however, can distinguish between God's will and what is somewhat deliberately done. Moreover, the facts contradict Israel's assertion. The facts tell us the following:

1. Israel bans the propping up or restoration of any Arab house, Arab facility, or historical Arab building, because Israel wants it to collapse. Thus, one of the elements of the Arab character of Jerusalem and Palestine would be eliminated. Should we forget the ancient minaret of Hasan Bey's Mosque in the occupied city of Yafo, whose restoration Israel prohibited, and which collapsed five years ago?

2. The ongoing Israeli excavations in Arab Jerusalem under the pretext of searching for imaginary Jewish ruins are aimed at weakening the foundations of the houses within and outside the walls of Arab Jerusalem. The afflicted Arab cafe is located not far from the Israeli excavations.

3. Since 1967, Israel has been planning to get rid of Ma'man Allah's Cemetery, which contains the pure remains of thousands of defenders and liberators of Jerusalem throughout history, so that Israel can build housing units for the Zionist invaders.

Briefly, we say—or rather emphasize—that Israel has created the circumstances for this disaster. We also do not rule out the possibility of an Israeli act of sabotage against the cemetery's wall which led to its collapse, particularly during the curfews or the recent violent weather changes.

In light of these facts, we accuse Israel of carefully and patiently planning for this disaster. Indeed, we accuse it of committing the massacre at the cafe at Herod's Gate. Israel cannot hold Mother Nature and snow avalanches responsible for its barbaric massacre as long as it coldbloodedly provided all the circumstances for the disaster

to occur. We accuse Israel and hold it responsible for this massacre. We call on the international community to raise its voice and to adopt measures that will stop Israel's infringement on Arab holy places and its harrasment of human beings, the most noble of creatures.

It should be understood, specifically by Israel, that the issue will not stop at accusing it of the massacre. No, each crime has its punishment. The Palestinian Arab people still have knives, hammers, Molotov cocktails, and even sickles. Does Israel not remember the night of the sickles at 'Afulah camp, the biggest camp of the Israeli occupation army?

'Deadlocked' Peace Talks Seen As 'Only Natural'

JN0503121092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, 5 Mar (SANA)—In an editorial headlined "After the Fourth Round," the newspaper TISHRIN says today that it was not at all surprising that the fourth round of Washington talks concluded without any results, especially since the Israeli Government has instructed its delegation not to discuss two essential issues; namely, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and Palestinian rights.

The paper adds that during the fourth round, the Israelis refused to discuss withdrawal from the Golan or southern Lebanon. They demanded that the Palestinians endorse a document called "self-rule" acknowledging the Jewish immigrants' full right to settle in Palestinian territories, although the Jewish immigrants, mostly from the former Soviet Union, are aliens while the Palestinians are the true owners of the land.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Under the racist and aggressive Zionist mentality, it is only natural for the Washington talks to be completely deadlocked, as peace cannot prevail under the occupation and Judaization of Arab territories. Peace becomes possible only when the Israeli rulers admit the historical and geographical facts; respond to what is right and just; and respect human rights and UN charters, principles, and resolutions. Pending all this, the international community bears a historic responsibility to deter the oppressor, back the oppressed, and crystallize its commitment not to use double standards in dealing with the peoples' just causes.

Armenian Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN0503171192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan arrived in Damascus this afternoon for a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his assistant Yusuf Shakkur, and other high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials were on hand to greet him.

In a statement to SANA, Ovanesyan said his visit is to lay the groundwork for and establish diplomatic ties between Syria and Armenia.

Once ties are established, Ovanesyan said, he hoped to see the two countries forge economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation.

Views Nagorno-Karabakh

JN0603061492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Excerpt] A Syrian Arab delegation, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and a delegation representing the Republic of Armenia, led by Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan, held an official round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

Also attending the session on the Syrian side were Yusuf Shakkur, the assistant foreign minister, and Dr. Ghassan Rslan, head of the Eastern Europe Department. For Armenia, the talks were attended by (Sarkis Ohansian), director of the Middle East Department.

During the talks, views were exchanged on the current international situation and events in the Middle East. The Armenian foreign minister explained the tragic situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the two sides expressed hope that this problem would be resolved through peaceful means. Discussion also focused on ways to develop relations between Syria and Armenia in all fields. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Opposition Groups Discuss UN Peace Plan

Mojahedin Groups Meet in Tehran

LD0503185192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The joint session by the Afghan Islamic Unity Party and the Islamic Revolution Movement led by Molawi Mansur, the Islamic Unity Cause of Mojahedin led by Qazi Amin Waqqad, the Islamic Revolution Movement led by Molawi Mo'azzen, and the Coordination Committee for the Western Afghanistan Jihad fronts, was held this morning at the political office of the Islamic Unity Movement in Tehran to review the UN secretary general's five-point statement.

Following a detailed review of the UN secretary general's five-point statement to determine its ambiguities and weak points, the joint session, which was attended by several prominent Afghan commanders, discussed the present situation in Afghanistan, the effects of regional developments—especially the formation of newly independent states on Afghanistan's northern borders—and the current political moves for resolving the Afghan issue. A joint statement was then issued.

The statement, noting the need for Islamic and national unity between the various groups in the Muslim Afghan nation in order to achieve the high Islamic objectives, stressed the safeguarding of Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity.

The joint statement also called for speedy amendment of the weak and ambiguous points of the UN secretary general's five-point statement.

Hekmatyar on Opposition to Plan

BK0503034192 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

["Text" of interview with Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar by FRONTIER POST [FP] Staffer Nadira in Peshawar; date not given]

[Text] FP—What is your position on the UN plan and why do you oppose it, what is your alternative to it?

Ans. We say since this government (Najib's) is illegal and imposed by foreign forces, it must be terminated and replaced by a popularly elected government. In order to move from this status quo to an elected government, we definitely need and of course need interim period. And the issue that who will take part in the election for such a government, is that any body who could survive as a political party and could remain as a political entity will definitely take part in the future elections. And by having this attitude, I don't know in which point or on which particular juncture we have ignored realities in Afghanistan. After transfer of power from this government to interim arrangement, any party as a political party could take part in the elections.

FP: That means you will acknowledge Najib and the Watan Party only after the elections. You do not acknowledge him now as a political party.

Ans, If Najib and his party was able to survive as a political force after power transferred to interlim government then they are eligible.

FP: But now they don't?

Ans. Now this government is imposed by foreign troops. How we can accept it as a reality and accept this government.

I say that this government should be removed then after that the power is transferred to an interim government. If Najib can survive as a political party; he will impose himself on the future of Afghan political policies and he will take part in elections. This is our view.

FP: If you in any way come into power, Najib and his Watan Party people fear that you will exterminate them?

Ans. Why this fear should be there? Why Why? Hezb-e Eslami had accepted people like Shah... Tamai, his defence minister and all his important colleagues—those who were ruling Afghanistan. They were accepted now they are living with us. None was killed.

FP: What about Najib's background, you know "KHAD" and all that, his secret service background, some of these people in Najib's party were responsible for a lot of deaths. Would you not want them to put on trial?

Ans. Our position has been all-round that if Najib and his colleagues in the Watan Party for the sake of termination of war in Afghanistan surrender themse[illegible] to mojahedin they will be absolutely eligible for the general amnesty by Hezb-e Mojahedin. They will pardoned, however, if that party insists on war and is forced to surrender then their trial will be the national right.

FP: After the capture of Khowst and in light of your earlier setback of Jalalabad, your mojahedin have not been able to earn any worthwhile military victory in Afghanistan, primarily due to the infighting, could you comment?

Ans. There is no infighting at all. This is just a propaganda and this has never been a factor causing the delay in the toppling of regime in Kabul. The fact of the matter is that people are not counting the victories, the strong positive points about the mojahedin. What they are doing now is they are trying to find fault with it. They are looking for small loopholes for which they would blame mujahedin. Particularly this mission is carried out by those circles who are controlling the international mass media.

FP: Waged by whom?

Ans. We were very nice guys, very effective freedom fighters all the time, while there were Soviet forces in Afghanistan, but we are bad guys, defeated mojahedin who cannot take over big cities today. But the fact of the matter is that mojahedin are controlling practically 97 percent of the Afghan territory. Out of 282 districts, sub-districts, the mojahedin are controlling 247 of them. Before people would count, a small victory of mojahedin as big if two towns were destroyed and two posts were taken, they would say that oh, mojahedin have achieved such a big victory. But today people are not counting these victories as victories. We can't ignore the two million people living in Kabul. So, therefore, the regime is using the people of Kabul as a shield against mojahedin's attacks. And the mojahedin having this consideration not to destroy the whole country or to eliminate and massacre the people in Kabul are delaying the strategy to attack Kabul and capture the big cities.

FP: We come to the latest Pakistani position given our minister of state for foreign affairs Kanjoo on January 25, how significant departure is it, from Pakistan's former position?

Ans. As far as the rhetoric is concerned it does not convey any change, any drastic change, but some times it shows the real aspect of the intentions. Rhetoric is the same, there is no change of officials, but practically, yes there is a lot of change.

FP: The gap is widened between you and the government of Pakistan.

Ans. No, No, this is not.

FP: The Soviet Union has collapsed. If the Afghan is issue not settled it will remain a stumbling block for the development of an Islamic axis—this delay will be of advantage to anti-Islamic forces.

Ans. I believe that closer relations between the countries of this region are in interest of the people of this region. We are for a just, durable and speedy solution to Afghanistan problem.

Whatever Pakistan was doing practically has stopped it completely, especially in regard to mojahedin. We would be happy if Pakistan is able to find a solution, whatever they call it, political or non-political, if it stops the bloodshed, stops the war and returns the right of Afghan people to them. We will pray in this case for Pakistan.

FP: Has Najib's position been strengthened by the support that he is said to be getting from the Central Asian Republics.

Ans. The newly born Central Asian countries do not have anything substantial and tangible for Najib. They cannot afford to give him military and economic support. They have their own problems, particularly economic and they cannot support Najib. As a matter of fact this reasoning is given by those who want Najib to remain in power. It is a propaganda. They want to impress Mojahedin to accept the realities, the so-called realities to make mojahedin accept Najib. And they argue that the mojahedin should accept the coalition government and if not they will be losing a chance, because Najib will win the support from Central Asian states.

FP: Mojahedin's seven parties have no consensus that on what should be composition of that regime. How do you realise objective of the establishment of an Islamic regime?

Ans. It is a hard fact that the differences of views exist between the parties all over the world. You cannot show one single country unless it is with single party system. It is part of the history that the countries which have multi-party system have different views and issues, we also have this problem—if it is a problem at all that we have different parties with different views or different perspectives but if you ask me about a common viewpoint on different issues amongst the different mojahedin parties they are limitless but they agree on one common point that Najib should go at any rate. 2nd, it is impossible to go into coalition with Watan Party. 3rd that the Islamic government is the fate of Afghanistan. That an interim government should replace Najib and all powers be transferred to it. That the ceasefire in presence of Najib is not possible. That the interim period should have an elected government.

FP: Has the gap widended between Iran and Islamabad?

Ans. No, No, this is not the case but there is a change. So, the hand of our sensitive organisation (of) Pakistan told me that in fact he is (not) able to do anything. He said that "I will resign, tomorrow I will tell the president that I want to resign." So this was the situation over there. In presence of Russian troops in Afghanistan. But today we are hearing that circles are saying that we can neglect some "fundamentalist". They say we are very happy that you are trying a solution. We think that the war can come to an end in Afghanistan and a peace can return and government of Afghan people can be established. This is what we want. If you can solve the problem without us, we will be very very happy. The situation as such, some circles in Pakistan are opposing the facilities to mojahedin to which are actually going to the Kabul regime.

Kabul is getting facilities some circles in Islamabad are giving these facilities to Kabul regime and the same is denied to mojahedin.

FP: In view of this, supposing Pakistan is hell bent on a political settlement which may include Najib regime. And you on the other side keep plugging for a military solution, then what will happen to your long standing relationship with Islamabad?

Ans. I don't think they will change this policy and accept a solution which includes Najib.

FP: But there has been a drift in our policy. You believe that they will not (change), but due to some pressure, supposing there is a draft towards accomodating Najib, then?

Ans. Then this is not practical. I don't believe any body will make such a mistake.

FP: Do you foresee a situation where your differences with Islamabad widen so much that the authorities ask you to pack your bags and leave..?

Ans. I believe there are such bonds that bind the mojahedin Islamabad together, which, to me, seem unbreakable, because of what the Pakistan nation has done for Afghan people. At the time of trial no Afghan will let this down for generations. secondly, the role we have jointly played for the good of this region and particularly for the good of our two countries by removing the Russian threat from Afghanistan.

FP: Economic realities, after all, dictate in the end over causes, over idealism—do you completely put aside economic realities?

Ans. To me, the question that US will offer incentives and will encourage Pakistan to delink itself from the mojahedin even this to me seems very impractical. Because the reason is that American is now ditching Pakistan in favour of India. Pakistan can not invite the support or aid or sympathy of US, no matter whatever attitude they take towards mojahedin, it is now out of question. This will be a very great mistake if Pakistan accepts a government of American choice in Afghanistan. I am afraid if they make such a mistake, they will again be facing such a situation of being sandwiched between two rival powers, India and Afghanistan. Pakistan will not be able to have good relations, economics, cultural or otherwise with Central Asia, Iran or Turkey or Afghanistan in future. I think, Pakistan might be compelled to find an alternative of America for itself. They can seek an alternative in China or even the Russian Federation. They can look, for a support, to Iran and Turkey in this regard. In Europe, they can seek allies in Germany, France. If they want to replace the F-16 with MIG-29, that is alternative. MIG-29 is one million dollars, They can also have Mirages to replace F-16.

FP: Where is million dollars to come from? Where?

Ans. Nobody is giving aid for God's sake. They have their own interests and strings. They give you one and take back two. They are charging double. They are depriving you of your sovereignty and independence. I believe no patriotic Pakistani will trust or press for inviting American aid, if they want to lose their independence, sovereignty.

FP: Isn't your fundamentalist image one of your major handicap you carry in relation to the West as well as the moderates among the Muslim World?

Ans. The reason, big powers are against me is not because of my personality that imperialists/big powers are against me, but because I am the leader of the strongest and most effective party in Afghanistan. They know my party can established a strong stable government, as it has support and influence at grassroot level all over the country. I believe that if I don't lead such a party, my party was weak and ineffective, they will not turn against me. So, I say their opposition to me is not because of my views or ideology, but more because of effectiveness and popularity (of my party). The strategy of imperlalism is now that they want to support and foster sessionist movement. They want to divide stronger countries and governments on ethnic, lingual and other lines.

We talk of elections (inside Afghanistan) we were called extremist, fundamentalists and what not, but those who are in favour of very old monarchy or "Loya Jirga" [Grand Assembly] 'system those who are trying to foment tribalism in Afghanistan. They are called moderates.

FP: Do you believe in political pluralism or do you prefer one party system?.

Ans. We believe that there should be different parties in Afghanistan. But we believe in few strong parties.

FP: So, you will try and contain the number of parties?

Ans. Yes, and that should also be approved by the constitution. We propose in constitution that national parties are allowed to function, not parochial, regional, lingual. The way to contain them would be in the first election. A party securing less than 10 percent votes, should not be allowed to function, and merge itself into any like-minded party. Thus we can induce political stability in the country. The problems which are inherent in allowing independent candidates or smaller parties, they are used as a tool to play, of one party against the other and that creates insecurity and instability in the country. The best way will be that to contain them constitutionally and allow all those parties which have national outlook. Independents come with no programme for the people and serve only their own interest.

FP: Would you just tell me that under you, what (format) will Afghanistan take like Libya, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia Generally?

Ans. Like Afghanistan.

FP: You are a very determined man, but will you...

Ans. We have stated this struggle without the support of Pakistan and we will continue without the support of Pakistan but we are grateful and indebted what Pakistan his done for us.

FP: Would you shake hands with India in case Pakistan abandons you?

Ans. (After a long pause), I will just tell India that if they want to have good relations with Afghans, they should adopt such a policy that they would have good relations

with Pakistan and Afghanistan. We are in favour of peace in this region. No fighting among the countries of this region.

FP: What was your relationship with Gen. Hameed Gul, [Pakistan's Interservices Intelligence Chief] and how do you feel about his recent dismissal?

Ans: His dismissal is absolutely Pakistan's internal issue. My impression about him is something very personal which I want to keep to myself.

FP: I find it quite strange that here is an ex-general who voices it clearly, and you as a leader of a cause, we are committed also, you refuse, I mean...

Ans: When the time (arrives), I will openly express my views on it. And whenever I have a chance to write a history of Afghanistan and this resistance, I will have him on my head.. and that time I will be writing about his role, and the role of other personalities. I don't think it is the (right) time...Pakistan will accuse me of interfering. I say that Wali Khan will be accusing me.

Mojaddedi Criticizes Hekmatyar Stance

BK0303124592 Islambad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Mar 92 p 1

[By Rafagat Ali]

[Text] Rawalpindi, March 2—Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, President of Afghan Interim Government (AIG) while accusing Golboddin Hekmatyar of attempts to halt the peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict said: "He wants more bloodshed in Afghanistan by opposing the UN peace plan."

Talking informally to newsmen here at Rawalpindi Press Club, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, said that Golboddin Hekmatyar was not sincere in restoring normalcy in the motherland and was opposing the peaceful solutions for self-aggrandisement. He said he was fully backing the peace formula given by the special representative of the UN general secretary.

President of the Afghan Interim Government and chief of Jibbah Nijate Milli Afghanistan completely rejected the four-point formula of Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar's four-point formula was an attempt to prolong the 13- year-long conflict, in which 1.5 million people have already lost their lives, he maintained.

Supporting the idea of holding the Grand Assembly of the Afghan leaders, he said the Pakistan Government was taking steps in right direction. To a question he stated that his party would not participate in the Assembly or Jirga if communists were also invited to attend the meeting.

He said some people have made jihad their profession and that is why jihads were not reaching to their logical ends.

Addressing the Kashmir conference at Rawalpindi Press Club, he advised the Kashmiri mujahids [Holy Warriors] to keep an eye on those mujahids who have adopted it as a profession.

He alleged that successive governments in Pakistan created fissures in the ranks of the Afghan mojahedin as it was easy for them to play them on their tunes.

He said 95 per cent of Afghanistan is independent and only five per cent was occupied by foreign agents.

Earlier, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, federal minister, while addressing the same gathering, warned the mujahids of Kashmir to beware of the American conspiracies. He said America was conspiring in Kashmir and wanted to eliminate Islam from the world as it was the only obstacle in the implementation of its new world order.

Pir Allahudeen Siddique, Pir Mohammad Afzal Qadir and Senator Pir Barkat Ahmed Shah addressed the meeting and urged the Kashmiri youth to maintain unity in their ranks and file for accomplishing the cherished goal of independence from the Indian subjugation.

Hezbollah Member on UN Plan

NC0103154392 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 12 Feb 92 p 12

[Interview with Haj Qari Ahmad 'Ali, member of the Afghanistan Hezbollah Party by unidentified JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent, in Mashhad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] Could you please tell us the Hezbollah Party's stance on the UN secretary general's five-point plan and the axes of the political moves on which the plan is to be implemented?

[Qari Ahmad 'Ali] We believe that the UN secretary general's plan has some positive points and some negative ones. Our stance is that all the positive points should be accepted and the negative points should be discarded. These negative points are opposed to the aspirations and slogans of our revolution and in conflict with our beliefs and principles. We have rejected these points from the beginning and will continue to do so.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Hezbollah did not participate in the Moscow talks. Was there any particular reason?

[Qari Ahmad 'Ali] Hezbollah was not the only party that did not participate in the Moscow talks. You are aware that Afghanistan's problems are enmeshed in party and factional politics. Countries which have this problem usually endeavor to hold such conferences with the participation of their own factions. We were not invited to the Moscow conference. We have certain views and stances and if we had been invited on these bases we would have participated. If conferences are convened on stances which are opposed to the will of the people we will not participate. [passage omitted] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] In Peshawar recently, the mojahedin set up

committees for reaching a political solution and, in a way, are seeking to set up a broad-based government with greater legitimacy. Is Hezbollah involved in this process?

Of course we are involved in the talks and moves currently taking place in Peshawar. What is important for us is that we are appraising the moves and policies currently being planned. We do not, however, have detailed information on political moves, and we are moving cautiously until we fully understand the facts.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] To what extent would the mojahedin commanders play a role in the various issues? Is the stance of the commanders a positive one on a political settlement? Do you have any other solution in mind?

[Qari Ahmad'Ali] In our view, the reason all the political negotiations to date have failed is because they have not given adequate attention to the mojahedin. Until the policy makers or political leaders coordinate their stances with the mojahedin fighting in the trenches, their moves will remain ineffective. Second, free areas, liberated by the mojahedin and are under their control, exist here. The mojahedin, therefore, have a more effective and decisive role to play in the negotiations. What the mojahedin want is for their revolutionary and combatant slogans to be fulfilled and for their hallowed struggle to be acknowledged. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How do you assess the future of the peace process? Are you hopeful that an Islamic system will be established in Afghanistan?

[Qari Ahmad 'Ali] There can be nothing but an Islamic government in Afghanistan. The world has accepted this fact. As far as the peace process is concerned, we reiterate that if the political moves are not coordinated with the wishes and aspirations of the mojahedin, peace will be impossible.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How is the current Kabul government being nurtured militarily?

[Qari Ahmad 'Ali] The Kabul government has depots and arsenals. In fact, the military is well-equipped. They also have caches inside mountain passes. Reports from the Towraghondi border indicate that nearly 200 tanks and 5,000 [as published] trucks of ammunition have been transported from Russia to Afghanistan this month. Russian military assistance to Afghanistan has not stopped, a total contravention of the accord signed between the Americans and Russians. Russian military aid continues.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] In view of the fact that you are continuing your holy movement, what do you expect from the Islamic government of Iran?

[Qari Ahmad 'Ali] We want Iran to continue to see the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in the context of the same revolutionary and Islamic mission as theirs. We do not want Iran to compare the values of the mojahedin's holy struggle with political issues. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] The new world order, which is a U.S. concoction, has resulted in great ferment in the Islamic world. What is your opinion on the stances of the Islamic movements?

[Qari Ahmad 'Ali] Following the collapse of the Russian Marxist system, the only power that the Americans think can threaten them is the power of the Muslims. The only ideology that has been able to rise up against it in a revitalized and invigorating manner is Islamic ideology. We do not believe that Western logic, the logic of the Americans, can satiate the spiritual thirst of humanity or satisfy their spiritual needs. Islamic values alone can satisfy man's spiritual and intellectual needs. [passage omitted]

The superpowers do not want the Islamic movements which have a revolutionary spirit and slogans to attain victory. It is, therefore, essential that the Islamic countries and movements of the world coordinate so that they help fight the U.S. role with regard to the Islamic countries. They can, therefore, establish a firm bastion against all the U.S. political, cultural, military, and propaganda schemes.

Rabbani—Kabul Carried Out Rocket Attack

BK0103144492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 1 (AFP)—A rocket attack on Kabul which killed at least 20 people was the work of the Afghan Government and not the mojahedin, an Afghan resistance leader claimed Sunday.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, who is also acting foreign minister of the resistance's government-in-exile, said Saturday's rocket attack on Kabul's crowded money market had been aimed at defaming the mojahedin by making them appear responsible for the deaths of civilians.

"The aim of this propaganda is to create ill-feelings against the mojahedin among the Kabul residents as well as the international community," said Rabbani who also heads Jamiat-e Eslami, an influential mojahedin faction.

The Kabul regime had committed similar crimes before, he said.

Afghanistan's state-run media said mojahedin fired rockets in the crowded market place on Saturday, killing 21 people and injuring more than 100, and triggering an angry protest by the business community.

Diplomats contacted by telephone from New Delhi also put the death toll at 21, but mojahedin sources here said at least 27 people had been confirmed dead in the bloodiest rocket hit on Kabul since autumn.

Rabbani said that the "mojahedin usually target military centres," adding, had they fired from the north, as

claimed by Kabul, the Khwaja Rawash airbase would have been the "best and easiest target."

The resistance leader urged international organisations to put pressure on the Kabul Government to stop "criminal acts hurting innocent people and defaming mojahedin."

Other resistance sources had earlier said the attack could have been engineered by Afghan militia in the north of the country who had recently mutinied against President Najibullah.

The sources said the mutiny had spread to other areas as more commanders joined Rashid Dostam, the commander who initiated the rebellion last month.

Meanwhile, the pro-resistance MIDIA news agency reported clashes in northeastern Afghanistan's Baghlan Province between militia forces and government secret police had left 15 dead.

MIDIA said the rebel militia had blocked the Herat-Kabul highway last Tuesday, aggravating food and fuel shortages in Kabul and other places.

Neighboring States Want 'Weak' Regime in Kabul

BK2502123392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP)—Moderate Afghan resistance leader Amin Wardak Tuesday painted a sombre picture of the situation in his homeland, denouncing "foreign provocation" and the risks of a division of the country along ethnic lines.

"All the countries that surround us want a weak government (in Afghanistan) so they can foster their own interests," he told AFP. Wardak, a Pashtun, controls much of the province which carries his name southwest of Kabul.

He alluded to Iran, the three Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union bordering Afghanistan—Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan—Pakistan and India, all of which he claimed were trying to foment war in his country.

"Once again we have reached a very important moment for our country," explained Wardak, a prominent mojahedin leader in the fight against Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980s. The Red Army withdrew its troops in 1989 after nearly 10 years in the country supporting the Kabul regime.

He alleged that foreign interference included attempts by Tehran to forge links with Tajikistan and Persian-speaking "Tajik Afghans," declarations by Uzbek leaders of "solidarity" with their people in Afghanistan and in particular direct aid to Kabul by several neighbouring countries. The situation was "very dangerous," he said, recognising that the mojahedin were becoming isolated by all this.

"It's unbelievable. These days everyone is supporting Najib (Afghan President Najibollah)," Wardak added, referring in particular to the leaders of the three Central Asian republics, whom he described as "former communists who have suddenly become Moslems and nationalists."

Wardak accused Najibollah of aggravating the ethnic tensions and cited the recent replacement in the north of Uzbek and Tajik allied militia leaders with Pashtus, the same ethnic group as Najibollah.

The mojahedin leader did not dismiss the United Nations efforts to find a political solution, but said that while the war must end, it must do so logically.

"They cannot impose negotiations with the communists in Kabul on us. It is the same as if in France after the Nazis were defeated (during World War II) (the late French president Charles) de Gaulle had been asked to govern with collaborators." The U.N. wants to convene an inter-Afghan peace conference in April which would begin the process of setting up a broadbased interim government to organise general elections.

Wardak accepted that Kabul could be represented at this conference, "but not by the communists, nor the Watan (the ruling party), nor the regime. In Kabul there are intellectuals, university professors, former officials and former officers," who would be suitable, but U.N. mediator Benon Sevan "gives us no clear answer" as to who will attend the conference, he said.

Islamic Party Official, Russian Envoy Confer

LD0203164992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Gudev, the Russian ambassador to Tehran, today before noon met Hojjat ol-Eslam Fayyaz, secretary of the representative council of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan.

At the meeting Mr. Gudev said that according to previous agreements, Russia has now totally cut off the supply weapons to Afghanistan. He then called on the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan to lend its cooperation on the fate of former USSR POW's and missing in action in Afghanistan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fayyaz declared that it was necessary that in Afghanistan a government came to power which was based on the beliefs of and in line with the desire and demand of the Muslim Afghan nation. He then said: The Afghan nation wants to see Russia to move in line with the will of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

He added: We feel that the officials of Russia have come to realize the point that any help to the existing regime in Afghanistan would be tantamount to standing up against the will of our Muslim nation. That point will affect the future relationsip between the two countries.

The meeting took place at the request of the Russian ambassador and was held at the political office of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanstan.

Minister Hails Outgoing Russian Envoy Pastukhov

LD0603090292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Dr. Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, had a farewell meeting this afternoon in his office with Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation. Pastukhov's term of services has ended in the Republic of Afghanistan. In the course of this meeting talks were conducted on the good relations between both countries' people and governments.

India

U.S. Arms Sales to Pakistan in 1991-92 Noted

BK0503161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Pakistan has purchased military equipment from the United States on a large-scale commercial basis, even as official military aid was stopped because of the Pressler Amendment. According to an agency report, the Pentagon informed the U.S. Congress that the actual value of commercial deliveries to Pakistan was over $22 million in the fiscal year 1991 and zoomed to over $800 million in 1992. Bush Administration recently announced that the Pressler Amendment applies only to government grants and loans and not to commercial sales.

News Encouraging Kashmir Violence Banned

BK0403031492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, orders have been issued to prohibit the publication of any news item or matter which tends to incite violence or encourage seditious activities within the municipal limits of Srinagar city. The orders also banned publication of any material which encourages the militants or calls upon the people to indulge in unlawful acts disturbing the peace and tranquillity in the area.

Kashmir Medical Institute Director Kidnapped

BK0403012092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] In Srinagar, the director of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr. Zahur Ahmed, was kidnapped by militants yesterday. Dr. Ahmed, who is brother-in-law of the former chief minister, Syed Mir Qasim, was on his way to his residence from the institute in Fora locality. Security forces have launched a search, but no headway has been made so far.

Murder Attempt on New Punjab Leader Reported

BK0303145892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] An attempt on the life of the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, was foiled today with the timely detection of a bomb on the route to village (Jillan), about 55 km from Ludhiana. The chief minister had gone to the village to participate in the annual bhog [religious] ceremony of the sarpanch [headman] of the village who was killed by the militant in April [last year]. A bomb-like devise fitted by 32 batteries was found by two alert women working in a nearby field on the route from where Mr. Beant was to return after an hour. The bomb was later defused by army experts.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, has said that his government will deal firmly with any agitation launched by the Akalis. Talking to reporters near Ludhiana today, the chief minister said his government did no believe in confrontation and will like to solve all problems through negotiations.

Leftist Parties Strike Against Economic Policies

BK0403103892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The left parties and National Front MP's [Members of Parliament] held a dharna [strike] at the main entrance of Parliament House in New Delhi today in protest against the rise in prices and what they called submission to the World Bank dictates in framing the country's economic policies. Left party legislators from various states are holding a rally at the Boat Club in New Delhi. The issue also figured in both the houses of Parliament.

In the Lok Sabha, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] alleged during zero hour that the country's economic sovereignty has been compromised. He said the exit policy will bring misery to the common people and demanded that the prime minister should reverse the economic policies. Mr. Narasimha Rao, who was present in the house, said the people are happy with the new policies and they do not agree with the CPI-M leader's viewpoint. He said there are of course difficulties as the country is facing an economic crisis. He said even Russia is going in for an IMF loan to tide over an adverse economic situation.

In the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Dipen Ghosh, CPI-M, raising the matter alleged that the government is adopting antipoor measures which will lead to large-scale unemployment and rise in prices. Several other members of the National Front and left parties said the economic and industrial policies of the government amount to compromising the country's sovereignty. They said even the allocation for Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [Employment Program] has been curtailed in the budget. Several Congress-I members protested against the allegations made by the opposition members.

Opposition Condemns Wheat Import Decision

BK0503093492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The opposition in the Lok Sabha today took the government to task over the decision to import wheat, alleging that the country's sovereignty has been compromised. The issue, raised during the question hour, spilled over to the zero hour, with the entire opposition demanding a statement from the government. The house witnessed noisy scenes when Mr. Nirmal Cahtterjee of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] referred to the press reports on the American refusal to supply wheat as India was exporting rice to Cuba. He was joined by the members of the Janata Dal, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Janata Dal-S in charging the government of falling prey to U.S. dictates. The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, accused the government of blaming previous governments for its own actions and said the agriculture minister, Mr. Jakhar, was trying to mislead the house.

Defending the decision to import wheat, the agriculture minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, said that the import or export is part of the economic policies, and the facts will be tabled in the house. He said the government will ensure full protection to the interests of the farmers. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Kumaramangalam, assured the house that the commerce minister will make a statement on the reported American refusal to supply wheat and the import rate.

Rapid Action Force To Confront 'Communal Riots'

BK0503090092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed that the Rapid Action Force with specialized skills to tackle communal riots is likely to be operational by 1st of July. This was stated by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, during question hour. He said that the force will be raised by regrouping and reconstituting the existing personnel in the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] with personnel basically believing in secular character to deal with every kind of situation. The minister said that the motive of the force will be to immobilize the person indulging in riots, rather than killing him. He said that minorities as far as possible will be given adequate representation to win over their confidence. He said that the northeastern region will also be duly represented in the force.

In reply to another question, the home minister said the question of setting up the human rights commission is under consideration. In reply to a question, he said that with the press, judiciary, and legislature, sufficient safeguards for the human rights already exist. The minister charged the Amnesty International of twisting and distorting the facts about human rights in certain parts of the country.

In reply to another question, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. M.M. Jacob, told the house the Uttar Pradesh Government has sent a proposal for creation of a separate of Uttaranchal comprising eight hill districts. Government is examining the proposal, he said.

Cease-Fire on ULFA Militants Extended

BK0503125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] In Assam, the suspension of army operations against the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] has been extended till the 1st of next month at the request of the militant organization. A state government press release in Dispur said this is being done in order to give the ULFA a final chance. However, it warned that firm action will be taken against anyone trying to sabotage the peace process. The army operations against the ULFA, launched in September last year, was suspended in January after the ULFA agreed to hold negotiations for a peaceful settlement of their demands.

Minister Appeals for Special EC Trade Status

BK0403091792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Chidambaram, today appealed to the European Community [EC] to give special trading preference to Indian products for free and fair competition in the European market. Launching the Indo-EC Business Forum in New Delhi today, he urged the community to protect India's concerns on cheaper health care and full security in the GATT negotiations so that they are reflected in the final Uruguay package.

Addressing the forum, the external affairs minister, Mr. Solanki, told the EC to clearly specify that a singe European market will encourage a fair, open, and transparent multilateral trading system. The visiting European commissioner for North-South relations, Mr. (Abel Mathuthes) while reiterating the community's commitment for free trade said member countries are keen to strengthen cooperation with India to take advantage of the emerging economy, which promised significant dynamism.

'Militants' Among 10 Killed in Punjab Incidents

BK0403045092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] In Punjab, four militants have been killed and nine arrested, while militants shot dead six persons in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, four militants were killed in encounters with security forces in Bhatinda, Hoshiarpur, Sangrur and Ludhiana districts. A large quantity of arms, ammunition, and explosives was recovered from the militants held in Ludhiana District.

Pakistan-Trained Rebels Among 5 Killed in Kashmir

BK0503161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, five persons, including two Pakistan-trained militants, were killed and 10 militants arrested in different search operations in the valley. Two militants surrendered before the security forces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 15 AK-47 rifles, has been recovered.

Dollar Supplants Sterling as Intervention Currency

BK0303160092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] today switched over to the U.S. dollar as the intervention currency, replacing the British pound sterling in international trade transactions. According to the RBI deputy governor, Mr. Janakiraman, this is being done to as a sequel to the new liberalized exchange rate management system as more than 50 percent of the country's trade is invoiced in dollars. Sterling was the intervention currency for many years. Mr. Janakiraman said that trade invoiced in sterling has drastically come down over the years, while the trade invoiced in dollars has increased considerably.

Gas Industry Accord Signed With Denmark

BK0403043292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] India and Denmark have agreed to collaborate in the area of development of the gas industry. An agreement to this effect was signed between the public sector Gas Authority of India [Limited], GAIL, and (Dansk Olie) Natural Gas, DONG, of Denmark. Both GAIL and DONG are the leading companies in the area of development and management of natural gas resources. The areas of cooperation will include information and documentation, training, consultancy, and research.

Results of Kazakhstan President's Visit Hailed

BK0303141692 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 3 Mar 92

[N.K. Roy Commentary]

[Text] The visit of Kazakhstan president, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, in the last week of February, which was the first by him to any country after the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is indicative of the high importance his country attaches to India. The visit also coincided with the raising of the Kazakhstan flag at the United Nations. In fact, President Nazarbayev's visit has brought the two countries closer, not because the two countries signed five agreements, but because the two countries have common approach to the world problems, including terrorism, secularism and nuclear issues that are haunting the world at large. It has also helped India and Kazakhstan understand each other's requirements and the potentialities that they have for cooperation in various fields.

Kazakhstan, which is one of the biggest republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union and a neighbor of India, adds new dimensions to the relationship between the two countries. [sentence as heard] Of the five agreements signed, the first one sets out the general principles governing the relations between the two countries, committing them to work together for secularism, and nuclear non- proliferation. The framework of the agreement also provides for ("payments) and agreements to be made in a manner to be mutually agreed upon by the two countries. Both sides have agreed to encourage investment, technological cooperation, and transfer of technology, including setting up joint ventures in each other's territories for domestic as well as third world country markets. The agreement also provides for promotion of contracts for training and industrial enterprises through exchange of visits of business delegations, participation in fairs and exchange information in order to expand and diversify trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

The second agreement provides for counselor relations and a framework for cooperation in the field of culture and tourism. Another agreement signed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and the visiting Kazakh counterpart, makes Kazakhstan the first of the Commonwealth of Independent States—CIS—after the Russian Federation, to have direct diplomatic relations with India.

The fifth [as heard] agreement signed by the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and his Kazakh counterpart, paves the ground for a five-year framework for cooperation in trade and economic relations and science and technology. As a follow up to this agreement, the two countries would conclude a trade agreement and a trade protocol for 1992 during the comming visit of an official delegation from Kazakhstan to India. Under this framework agreement, both sides have agreed to continue and consolidate their historic friendship and cooperation and to impart a new impulse to the traditional and mutually beneficial ties and trade, economic relations and science and technology on a long-term and durable basis on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

The fact that the both countries favored a complete elimination of nuclear weapons should dispel fears of Kazakhstan encouraging the spread of its nuclear weapons and technology to other countries.

There is a great scope for cooperation between India and Kazhkastan in economic sphere. India's rich experience in managing a mixed and diversified economy can help train managers for Kazakhstan in India. The visit and the agreements signed on bilateral trade, investment and joint ventures will help business delegations from India to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in the ares of leather goods, textiles, electronics, consumer goods, hotels, construction and management. It will also promote contracts for training and industrial enterprises through exchange of visits of business delegations.

The clarification of the visiting president that the supply of defense spares would continue is of special significance. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the supply of defense spares was affected causing worry for India as Indian defense equipments are primarily from this region. The military cooperation between India and the confederation would help both as these countries need a market for the defense supplies for their very survival after the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union. It will be mutually beneficial to both.

Another point of significance was the categorical statement of the visiting dignitary condemning all kind of terrorism and fundamentalism within the name of religion or in the field of nationalism.

Iran

Karrubi Calls U.S. 'Number One Terrorist State'

LD0403190992 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—An Arab interparliamentary delegation led by Jordan's Abdullah al-Akayilah informed Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi over the decisions of the Arab Interparliamentary Union in relation with U.S. threats against Libya here today.

Al-Akayilah said U.S. pressures on the U.N. Security Council had led to the passing of a resolution against Libya aimed at extraditing two Libyans on alleged charges of involvement in the reported crash of a Pan American passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

He said the U.S. lobbying aims to justify all arrogant intrigues against independent countries opposed to the policies of the American Administration.

In response Karrubi called the U.S. "The number one terrorist state", and said the reason behind Washington's threats against Tripoli, is the "revolutionary position of Libya".

Elaborating on the state terrorism practiced worldwide by the American Administration, the speaker pointed to the U.S. backing of the Zionist entity in its commitment of all forms of crimes in south Lebanon such as the assassination late last month of Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi, and its rewarding of the captain of the USS Vincennes for his missiling down of the Iranian plane on July 3, 1988, killing all passengers on board.

He announced the readiness of Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran (Majles) to coordinate policies at international forums including the meetings of the interparliamentary bodies.

Dissolution of Alger's FIS Condemned

LD0503143792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Algeria's special government-controlled court dissolved the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and in this way the the ruling council's efforts to eliminate that Front from Algeria's political arena were completed. [passage omitted]

Political circles are discussing and analyzing the question of whether the current crisis in Algeria will ease now that the FIS has been dissolved. In general terms, takings note of existing evidence, political analysts maintain that as long as Muhammad Boudiaf, leader and spokesman of Algeria's ruling council,continues to claim that the reason that millions of Algerians support Muslim parties is because they lack political maturity, existing tensions in Algeria cannot be expected to ease.

In an initial reaction to the dissolution of the FIS, four Muslim Algerian leaders formed an organization called Islamic Solidarity of Algeria and announced that they condemn the government's action in disbanding the FIS, which was supported by the majority of the people. They consider this action to be contrary to public liberty, and it will undermine the stability and security of the country.

More Armenia-Azerbaijan Mediation Under Way

LD0503142992 Tehran IRNA in English 1317 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—A ranking Iranian delegation will leave here for Azerbaijan and Armenia next week to follow up efforts for the establishment of a lasting ceasefire between the two warring republics, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told IRNA here today.

Velayati said to this end contacts have also been established with several countries including Russia.

As per an earlier agreement between Iran, Azerbaijan and Armenia, another delegation from the Foreign Ministry and the Red Crescent Society will visit the region soon to initiate efforts for the exchange of the POWs and bodies of the victims between the two republics, he added.

Mission 'Not So Successful'

NC0503173492 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Successful Mediation Needs Careful Planning"]

[Text] Dr. Velayati and his accompanying delegation, who had travelled to the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia to mediate between the two warring nations, returned home yesterday.

As had been pointed out in a previous editorial in this column, Iran could be the best mediator between our two northern neighbors. Nevertheless Dr. Velayati's mission was not so successful, although both countries demanded that Iran's Red Crescent assume a more active role in the exchange of the wounded and the dead.

Contrary to all expectations and planning no ceasefire arrangement was reached, and besides the Iranian delegation was unable to visit the crisis-torn area of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The greatest causes of the delegation's lack of success were the incorrect timing of the mission, inadequate pre-planning and the neglect to receive the necessary guarantees from the sides before the trip was undertaken. Thus the major responsibility for the mission's lack of complete success lies with the planning section in the Foreign Ministry which is very experienced in this field, and one would not expect from them such obvious errors of judgment.

During the eight years of war with Iraq we had learned by experience that mediatory efforts should be undertaken only when certain prerequisites are present. No one, for instance, would try a mediation of try to effect a ceasefire in the midst of heavy military activities. For temporary ceasefires under such circumstances would offer each side the opportunity for re-deployment of its forces.

As a general observation it might be pointed out that the Foreign Ministry exhibited a certain miscalculation in its choice of inexperienced diplomats as ambassadors to the new republics in the former Soviet Union. Such missions can be more successful if they are backed by more experienced diplomatic cadres.

Still, one might consider the trip successful if it was only meant to be a symbolic gesture demonstrating Iran's dynamic foreign policy among the newly founded republics. But if the results of the mediatory efforts in achieving a ceasefire was also part of the preconceived objectives, then it might be said that the mission has misfired. This does not of course mean that we should give up our efforts in this direction for all things considered, we are still the best candidate for mediatory efforts, and with proper planning we could have an effective and valuable role in bringing about peace between our two neighbors.

Commentary: 'Lack of Proper Planning' in Economy

NC0103213992 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 16 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Commentary: "High Prices, Inflation, Government Role"]

[Text] According to the economic statistics released by the Central Bank, wholesale prices of goods and services have increased 27.7 percent in the past nine months, and the inflation rate in the current [Iranian] year is 18.2 percent. These increases show an increase of 30.7 percent from last year. These figures show the general indices in the price fluctuation of various goods in the Iranian market, and indicate market instability and the lack of proper planning. Lack of confidence in the future and the ambiguities in our economic policies, especially regarding our foreign exchange policies, has resulted in continued price instability.

The adverse social and economic effects of this trend are increasing every day and have heightened the people's discontent. Politicians give the impression that they are defensive about revealing current economic facts, seeing it as a sort of political slur, especially because elections are to be held in Farvardin [21 March-22 April], and such issues may be used against them.

The fact is, however, that such excuses should not be used to explain inattention to the destructive effects on the people's lives of unstable prices for essential goods. Experience has shown that the Muslim people of Iran are passing through the most sensitive point in their history in trying to preserve and protect the gains of their revolution, for which they sacrificed their all.

The faith of the Muslim people of Iran in their revolution and leadership has been the fundamental factor in this issue. Is it possible, however, to remain indifferent to the mounting pressure causing immense hardships for the revolution's true followers? In the past few months the mind-boggling and erratic spiraling of prices has put additional pressure on the more vulnerable lower income groups.

The mass media has paid little attention to the roots and reasons of this trend, and the unwholesome political atmosphere has resulted in pitifully few debates or discussions on this topic. Some believed that government involvement in planning and price fixing was the main factor in price hikes and market instability. They believed that with private sector involvement and the law of supply and demand, a certain equilibrium would be created in the market, resulting in a reduction of market instability. These people should come forward

now and explain to the people what mechanism they are going to use to make these claims materialize.

There is no doubt that economic development requires the extensive participation of the people and the private sector. As the main implementor of these policies, the government has been successful in carrying out its planning and policymaking in the best possible manner. Economic freedom, however, means something different from what is commonly considered in our society today. Economic freedom does not mean that the private sector can do whatever it wishes, and can place essential goods at the people's disposal at prices tailored to its own benefits, changing from day to day. This is in fact an uncontrolled situation and such extremism is one of the chronic problems of our society. The only result of this extreme attitude is that a large sector of the common people will become sacrificial victims.

At one time, the government's controlled and planned policies restricted freedom of economic activity and the economy lost its dynamism. In trying to remedy this trend, we have gone to the other extreme. If we do not revise this situation, we will suffer immense losses.

The proponents of a free-market economy should once again appraise their past promises. Those who claimed that by increasing free competition and delegating affairs to the private sector, prices would reach a balance and the people would have easier access to essential goods, should see that in today's market, the only people who can look after their own needs are the rich. The fact is that the lower and middle-income groups cannot afford to buy red meat at 400 tomans [old Persian monetary unit] a kilogram when their daily income is only 300-400 tomans. This group may have been able to afford meat two or three times a week in the past, but it no longer can.

The purchasing power of this group has decreased so much that it is impossible to assess. The prevailing feeling is that meat, eggs, chicken, and similar staples are now luxury goods that only the rich can afford. Is this what proponents of the free market thought would happen? Why do they not come forward and answer the people? Rest assured that linking these issues to political issues will not help solve the problem. That dear brother who says that propounding the issue of spiraling prices is tantamount to opposition to the government and is election propaganda knows full well that this idea will not be accepted. The deprived people, with their low income, are now feeling the brunt of this unbridled price hike and do not need political maneuvers. Every logical person would agree that changes in the economic structure would have some effect. High prices and inflation are the inseparable effect of the change from a government-controlled economic structure to a free-market economy. The scale of such price hikes and inflation has a limit, however, and control mechanisms do exist. Policy making and price control would not be unfavorable or impossible under the current circumstances. If the problem stems from a change in the economic structure, then the repercussions of the move can be equally distributed among all levels of society.

What has taken place in our society, however, is not only rooted in unhealthy economic policies, but also in the greed of those who are ready to fleece the people at any expense. They raise prices with every little change or incident, and there is no one to stop them. If anyone tries to protest or comment, he encounters a wave of political blackmail and accusations.

A society's problems should be resolved in a logical and principled manner. We observe the changes that have taken place in the past two months: Meat prices have doubled and the reasons given are as follows:

1. Some meat is being smuggled to neighboring countries.
2. The reduction in meat imports and the inability to announce the distribution of meat coupons on time.
3. The excessive snowfall and severe winter.
4. The reduction in facilities for transporting livestock due to road closures.
5. The approach of the month of Ramadan and the 'Id al-Fitr.

If we look at the reasons mentioned above, we can see that none of them are linked to our economic problems and none of them seem to be suitably justifiable. What they are, in fact, are reasons suppliers and retailers see for capitalizing for greater profit and income. The government's role here is to remove all impediments and control the conditions.

Unfortunately there is so much political and economic extortion that even if the government wanted to take measures to control this unhealthy trend it would face difficulties. The government should seek some other suitable means to control market conditions. Economic problems are like a chain. The increase in the price of one commodity sets off a chain reaction of similar price hikes in others.

The erratic price changes should be thwarted, or conditions should be created by which the purchasing power of the lower and middle-income groups is increased. Unfortunately, the government's economic policymakers and officials aggravate the instability by making contradictory statement instead of trying to control the situation. How long are we to continue witnessing this lack of coordination? The noble people of Iran have endured all types of pressure to date, and will do so in the future as well. This does not mean that their problems or their rights should be overlooked.

The government has made efforts to mitigate these problems. This merits appreciation, but it in itself is not enough. These efforts can only bear fruit when there is absolute coordination. A free-market economy also has rules and principles and in the cradle of this type of economy—in the West—policies and programs for extensive and rigid policy controls exist.

A completely unbridled economy with no controls at all is a totally incorrect concept of a free economy. It is only popular with businessmen who are unscrupulously amassing huge profits. Our industrial production, which should have benefited immensely from the conditions of a free economy, is under enormous pressure. The people are suffering, but the businessmen are reaping huge profits from consumer goods and services.

The conditions should be changed so that the free market can move on its correct path; that is, the path of growth, abundance, increased purchasing power of the people, and economic equilibrium. This cannot be achieved without precision in policymaking, comprehensive social controls, and close supervision. More important is the creation of healthy social conditions for appraising and checking such issues without any prejudices or abuse.

The radio, television, and press have played a very lackluster role in highlighting this problem to date. You could even say that they have played no role whatsoever. Support of the government does not merely mean singing its praises. Support of the government also means assisting it in recognizing realities in a logical and objective manner. Meaningless praise of the government does not strengthen it. To strengthen the government is to assist it in seeking the roots of problems and proposing ways to surmount them.

Afghan Mojahedin Commanders Arrive for Conference

NC0103074892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] A meeting of Afghan mojahedin commanders will open in Tehran tomorrow. Some commanders have already arrived in Tehran to attend the three-day session.

Najafi, adviser to the foreign minister and head of the special office on Afghanistan, announced this, adding that the phase of political efforts to determine the future of the Afghan Government has started. He also pointed out that the Tehran meeting is being convened at the request of the Afghan mojahedin commanders.

'Convention' Opens

LD0203231992 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Commanders of mojahedin groups from all over Afghanistan opened their three-day convention here today for coordinating operations against the Kabul regime and consolidating their ranks.

Addressing the meeting Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali-Mohammad Besharati underlined the need for formulating future strategies including plans to reconstruct their devastated homeland.

He said such a gathering of commanders of different mojahedin groups was sure to lift up the spirits of Afghan Muslims and dishearten the enemies of Afghanistan.

Besharati said the struggle of the Afghan Mojahedin in the international political scene supplements the military struggle in their homeland, and advised them to make sure to have a physical presence in all international circles, but not at the cost of neglecting the military struggle.

He also warned the mojahedin against "plots by the United States" calling on them to stand firm on their postion "against the oppressive policies of Washington."

In their convention here the mojahedin commanders are to review various projects for safeguarding the territorial integrity of Afghanistan in the face of the current upheaval in that country.

They pledged to continue their struggle until the coming to power of an independent non-aligned Islamic government in Kabul.

Velayati Addresses Commanders

NC0503075092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Speaking at the end of the three-day conference of the Afghan mojahedin commanders in Tehran yesterday, Foreign Minister Velayati stressed that the preservation of Afghanistan's territorial integrity and assigning the rule to the people's representatives are principles in which the Islamic Republic of Iran seriously believes. He pointed to the 13 years of resistance by the Afghan Muslim mojahedin for the sake of achieving Islamic objectives and said: Now that the time has come for the fulfillment of the Muslim Afghan nation's wish, the United States and some other countries are trying to prevent an Islamic government from coming to power in Afghanistan.

Velayati noted that unity is the only possible way to thwart the objectives of the enemies of Islam, saying: Islam, as the only mentor and the common denominator of the heroic Afghan nation, has always played the most effective role in uniting and boosting the morale of the Afghan people.

Our foreign minister added: Serious attention to regional developments and a correct assessment of international overtures concerning the Afghanistan problem are among the important duties of Afghan Muslim mojahedin leaders and commanders.

Our correspondent reports that at the end of the Afghan Mojahedin commanders' meeting, a 14-point resolution was read and approved by the participants. One part of this resolution states: We call on all the leaders of parties and political groups of Afghanistan's Islamic jihad to take the current sensitive situation in Afghanistan into

consideration and to put aside their differences in taste, so that the lofty aspirations of the Afghan nation can be achieved.

Namibian President Nujoma Arrives in Tehran

Habibi Comments

LD2902112392 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—President Sam Nujoma of Namibia arrived here Friday night on a three-day visit at the invitation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by First Vice-President Hasan Habibi.

Speaking upon arrival, Nujoma said Iran was among the few countries which recognized Namibia's independence. He also lauded Tehran's political support for the South West Africa People's Organization of Namibia (SWAPO) helping it materialize its aspirations and getting rid of apartheid.

As for the recent developments in South Africa, Nujoma expressed hope that the negotiations between the apartheid regime and the opposition parties will soon result in eradication of racism.

Habibi praised Namibia for being in the forefront of the anti-apartheid struggle. On bilateral relations, Habibi said Tehran and Windhoek presently cooperate in the fields of agriculture and fisheries and hoped that bilateral cooperation will be further expanded.

Nujoma Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0303050392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Namibian President Sam Nujoma, in Tehran at the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, met and conferred with him this evening. During the meeting, relations between the two countries were reviewed.

During the course of the meeting, Mr. Sam Nujoma expressed his gratitude to the Iranian president and the resistant nation of Iran for assisting the Namibian nation before its victory. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] was among the few countries which gave us total diplomatic recognition. He added: The IRI's spiritual support was a great moral boost to the Namibian nation and the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] in their struggle against racism, because during that time, a black and gloomy cloud had shrouded the whole of Namibia, and despite our confidence in victory, we had no idea about the future.

The Namibian president added: We have now overcome the initial problems, and are currently reconstructing our country and fighting poverty by virtue of our resolve.

Remarking on the current situation in his country, the conditions in the region, and the conspiracies hatched by the racist South African regime against the countries in South Africa, Mr. Nujoma said: We will strive to overcome our economic problems by employing our utmost effort and promoting South-South cooperation. To resist our enemies, we intend to establish an African common market with the help of all African countries.

He stressed his wish, and that of the Namibian Government and nation, to cooperate with the IRI in agriculture, training, fisheries, and animal-husbandry.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, having thanked Mr. Sam Nujoma, said: We are very happy to meet you in the wake of your victory, and now that you are occupying the presidency in Namibia. We are glad that your visit to Iran coincides with the International Day of Struggle Against Racism. We learned about your struggles and the problems faced by your people during your previous visit to Tehran, which took place before the independence of Namibia, and our wish at the time was that your country would gain victory and find a way to live in peace and harmony. He added: As in the past, we will continue to support your people, and are ready to extend as much help as possible toward alleviating your problems.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Your struggles were extremely worthy, since they were waged against an enemy armed to the teeth. The holding of free elections completed your success and served as good testimony to the legitimacy of the oppressed African nations, and the unjustness of the aggressors.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Sam Nujoma said: We had an embassy in Iran before our victory, and will open the Republic of Namibia's embassy in Tehran in the very near future.

Attends Majles Session

LD0203215492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, who is currently in Tehran, attended the open session of the Majles this morning. He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its all-encompassing support for the oppressed people of Africa. The Namibian president also paid respect to his eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—and the martyrs of the Islamic revolution. He invited all those present at the open session to observe one minute of silence to honor the memory of the martyrs.

According to our correspondent, the president of Namibia spoke of the effect of the Islamic revolution on the struggle of the people of Namibia against racism, and stressed cooperation and solidarity between Iran and Namibia. He said: Now that our two peoples have achieved their political aspirations, they have many

enemies. We must struggle against them. We must endeavor to create a desirable life for the people by upholding our ideals.

Mr. Sam Nujoma stressed: We are still committed to supporting the people of South Africa in their struggle to uproot apartheid and establish a non-racist country. With the same necessity, my government fully supports the people of Palestine in their struggle for freedom and independence in their own land. The president of Namibia also reiterated the support of the people and government of Namibia for the independence struggle of the people of Western Sahara.

Speaking of his fruitful talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he said: Considering Iran's position, we call for cooperation between Iran and Namibia in the struggle against racism and colonialism.

Before Sam Nujoma's speech, Majles Deputy Speaker Hashemian welcomed the Namibian president and his delegation, and spoke of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for all fighters against arrogance and racism. He stressed: The oppressed people of Africa, the people of the region, and Muslims everywhere must be united in their struggle against the racist regime of South Africa and the Palestine usurper regime. They must continue the struggle until victory.

At a meeting this morning with Majles Speaker Karrubi, Sam Nujoma thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its political and financial assistance to the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] movement during the struggle against the racist South African regime.

Mr. Karrubi stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for Third World states, and expressed the hope that the people of Africa will completely annihilate apartheid through steadfastness and struggle. The Majles speaker also stressed the solidarity of the nation and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Namibian people and government in their struggle against racism.

'Courtesy Visit' to Khamene'i

LD0303172592 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Namibia's President Sam Nujoma here Monday paid a courtesy visit to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Ayatollah Khamene'i told him that Iran is concerned about the oppressed and tyrannized nations of the world, and that it was willing and able to cooperate with the southern African nations. He said the people of Namibia will be able to solve their problems by standing firm in their struggle, by trusting in God and by relying on themselves rather than on their enemies.

The Namibian president in response indicated that the government of Namibia is committed to coping with internal problems in the country. He also solicited collaboration by Iran within the context of the goals of his country's government.

Nujoma heading a delegation from Namibia arrived in Tehran on an official visit Saturday.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was also present at the meeting with the leader today.

Nujoma Departs; Communique Issued

LD0303173592 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Namibian President Sam Nujoma wound up a three-day official visit to Iran and left Tehran this evening. He was seen off at the Mehrabad Airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before departure, Nujoma told reporters that the talks he held with Iranian officials here will be very effective in future trend of relations between the two countries. He also stressed on expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

Nujoma expressed hope that Namibia would soon have an embassy in Tehran. He also said he had invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Namibia.

In a brief talk at the airport, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani too assessed his talks with Nujoma as "positive". He said the two sides had studied all areas of mutual cooperation, including political, cultural, trade, industrial and regional.

He said the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Namibian revolution were treading a single path and that Iran backed the independence of Namibia. "We are ready to help Namibia to exploit its extensive resources," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

Nujoma's delegation composed of several ministers and high-ranking officials. During his stay here, Nujoma held constructive talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani "in a friendly and brotherly atmosphere of understanding." He also met the leader of the revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, as well as several cabinet ministers.

Meanwhile, in a joint communique issued in conclusion of Nujoma's visit, Iran and Namibia agreed that mutual cooperation of the regional states was the only "logical and practical method" for the settlement of the Persian Gulf's security problems. "Any outside interference can only jeopardize the achievement of peace and security of the region," they maintained.

The two sides stated that "they welcome the reforms taking place in South Africa, even though they do not consider them to be sufficient." These reforms, they believed, should go on until the formation of a democratic, popular and non-racial government based on one-man one-vote and supported by the people.

Both sides voiced their support for the liberation and democratic movements of South Africa and their legitimate demands. They called on the world community, especially the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to maintain all forms of pressure on the racist regime in order to force it to speed up the creation of democratic institutions.

The Iranian side voiced support for the Namibian side in connection with the question of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands.

Both sides voiced their all-out support for the Palestinian people's struggles against Zionism, and condemned the crimes committed by Israel. They also condemned the Zionist regime's terrorist acts and assassination of people, as well as military attacks in southern Lebanon as "state-sponsored terrorism and attack on an independent state in the region."

Both sides recognized the independence of former Soviet republics and affirmed their rights to statehood.

On the new world order, they underscored the need for greater political and economic cooperation among third world countries in order to ensure their own survival.

UNIDO Official, Velayati Discuss Cooperation

LD0403214192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Mr. Domingo Siazon, director general of the UN Industrial Development Organization [UNIDO], and Mr. Velayti, our foreign minister, met today and discussed the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with that organization. He noted the mediating role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the current peace efforts being made between the Republics of Azarbaijan and Armenia, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran plays a major role in this, and moreover, it has a very important place in the field of training and economic cooperation with the newly independent former Soviet republics.

Mr. Velayati said: Expansion of relations with the newly independent republics of the region to the north of Iran is proceeding at a good pace, keeping in mind our numerous historical, cultural, and geographical heritages. He said that the grounds for cooperation are vast, and noted the growth potentials of these republics. He described the futurte of these relations as being very good. Our country's foreign minister also emphasized the expansion of relations with the countries of the Third World and the South. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate fully with UNIDO in this field.

Habibi Meets Official

NC0403105792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Domingo Siazon, director general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, met First Vice President Hasan Habibi yesterday and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran can help foster industrial cooperation with the newly independent countries and the developing Third World countries within UNIDO.

Pleased with his inspection of our scientific and industrial centers, he said: Industrial development in the Islamic Republic of Iran is dazzling. The director general hoped UNIDO's relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran would increase.

During the meeting, also attended by Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh, Habibi stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to expand economic cooperation with developing countries, including those newly independent in Central Asia.

The director general also met Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, discussing Iran's cooperation with UNIDO and assessing the Islamic Republic's role in economic and training cooperation with Central Asia's newly independent countries.

Agreement Signed on Sale of Oil to Turkey

LD0103201692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpts] A memorandum of understanding, signed today by our country's heavy industries minister and the Turkish minister of state for commercial affairs, places emphasis on the necessity of creating balance in the two countries' economic exchanges.

Apart from stressing the need for the expansion of long-term industrial and technical cooperations, the two countries have also stated that it is essential to avoid repeated investment by the two sides in the two countries' domestic needs, and in exports to third countries.

The memorandum of understanding stresses cooperation in the manufacture of digging equipment, the production of magnesium, and other mineral substances.

The [Turkish] minister of state for commercial affairs, in an interview with our correspondent, termed the setting up of the 10th Iran-Turkey Joint Commission as a turning point toward expanding the two countries' industrial and trade ties. He expressed hope that ties will reach their highest possible level. He said he hopes the implementation of the protocol will advance faster, and said that the Economic Cooperation Organization is a serious issue. He expressed the hope that Iran and Turkey will be able to cooperate sincerely in most spheres.

Heavy Industries Minister Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian also told our correspondent that the Turkish side agreed, in the memorandum of understanding, to make efforts toward creating more balanced commercial exchanges between the two countries, and to take seriously the issue of Iranian non-oil exports to that country. [passage omitted]

The heavy industries minister said: Other issues raised included the expansion of border trade between the two countries; cooperation in the sphere of oil, gas, and petrochemicals; and the signing of a contract for the sale of at least 3 million tonnes of crude oil during 1992.

Pakistan

Minister Briefs House on French Nuclear Talks

BK0503143492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The National Assembly was today informed that the talks on the purchase of a nuclear power plant from France are progressing and only the issue of price remains to be settled. Replying to a supplementary question during the question hour, the minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, told the house if the price of the French power plant is higher than the ones available in international market, the purchase will be made from elsewhere. If it so happens, the compensation would be paid to Pakistan by France.

The minister of state for communications, Mr. Azam Khan Hoti, informed the house that there will be no change in the design of the Indus Highway from Karachi to Peshawar. Mr. Azam Khan Hoti made the statement while opposing an adjourned motion sought to be moved by Maulana Akbar Ali of JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] regarding the design of the Indus Highway. He said on completion of the Indus Highway the distance between Karachi and Peshawar would be reduced by 350 km. The assembly has now adjourned sine die.

India's Increased Defense Budget Viewed

BK0403124192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Mar 92

[A.B.S. Jafri Commentary]

[Text] India's finance minister has rather innocently claimed that a 7 percent increase in the country's defense allocation for the next financial year is not an increase at all. He argues that with over 12 percent inflation and a heavy devaluation of the purchasing power of the Indian rupee, this increase is in fact a reduction. This is a kind of hairsplitting. Let us put the 7 percent rise in the defense provisions for India's armed forces in the proper political perspective, with the past in view as well as the present and the near future. It must, first of all, be considered that India's armed forces now stand as the second largest in the world. The Soviet Union has virtually ceased to be the superpower which it used to be. The United States can justify its huge military strength on the ground, but it carries global responsibilities, which is not the case with India. On the contrary, except for China, all neighbors of India are comparatively very small. Already India's military power is severalfold stronger than that of Pakistan. Any addition to this power, or even maintenance of it at the present level, remains a matter of much concern to Pakistan. For other neighbors, like Bangladesh, Nepal, or Sri Lanka, India's armed forces pose a [illegible]ounting proposition.

The world is a very small place in our times and it is going to get smaller and smaller. With the detente between the United States and the Soviet Union, the entire concept of maintaining armed forces has undergone a fundamental change. The threat of war has decreased to a meaningful extent on a world scale. The trend now is to reduce armaments and divert national resources to the social welfare schemes on the one hand and to conserve the environment on a global scale. War as a means of settling international issues is never a wise concept. Within our own South Asian region, we have seen that war has not solved a single problem but has in fact complicated further the problems designed to solve (?them).

India and Pakistan have fought three wars, only to end up with more problems and deeper poverty. On the larger Asian scale too, war should be seen in the same perspective. It should be noted that China has in the recent past made several friendly overtures toward India. Relations between these two powers of Asia has somewhat improved, which is a matter of enormous relief to all concerned, particularly to India itself. China is the only country India can name as a formidable rival. But there is no military threat from that quarter now, if ever there was any. All relevant factors lead a responsible person to the conclusion that no country in the world need add to its military power at the cost of the welfare of its people and its environment. There is a very clear and convincing case pertaining to the trend toward a gradual and steady reduction in expenditure on weapons. The armed forces of a nation have to be in accordance with the defense needs of the country. Disarmament has now its own transparently clear logic.

It can be said without much clear contradiction that India is among those big countries of the world which need to reduce expenses on armed forces for a variety of perfectly good reasons. First, it faces no threat from any power which may be militarily stronger than itself. Second, the compulsion to release more resources for the welfare of the people and environment is greater in India today than almost anywhere else in the world. It has to be noted that poverty in India has shown no sign of recession; if anything, there are more people below the poverty line than ever before. The social problems have also grown both in extent and intensity. The Indian finance minister may like to congratulate himself on what he professes to see as a downward trend in expenditure on the war machine, but it is not really so. As a matter of fact, there is reason to see it in an entirely different light. Over the past several years, India's defense budget has risen by leaps and bounds. The Rajiv Gandhi period saw a steep rise. The present strength of India's armed forces is such that to maintain them at the existing level is itself contrary to the logic of our times. The developments in the former Soviet Union is a case in point.

Spokesman Denies Interference in Kashmir, Punjab

BK0303142492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Kashmir is a disputed territory and this fact has been recognized by the international community in United Nations resolutions. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today while responding to a question with reference to the Indian prime minister's allegations that Pakistan was encouraging terrorism in east Punjab and Kashmir.

The spokesman said Pakistan scrupulously follows the principle of non-intervention in international affairs and is not in any way interfering in India's internal affairs, including Punjab. However, the spokesman clarified that Pakistan extends and will continue its diplomatic, political, and moral support to the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for the realization of the right of self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions.

Replying to a question about Pakistan-India relations, the spokesman said Pakistan is making all efforts to develop friendly relations with India, but peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the Security Council resolution is an essential condition in this regard. The spokesman referred to the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's, five meetings with the former Indian prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and the present prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, from November 1990 to January this year. During these meetings, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif emphasized Pakistan's desire to improve relations with India and seek peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue and hoped that India would enter into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan for its solution.

Azad Kashmir Premier on Plan To Cross Border

BK0403015492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The prime minister of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, has reiterated to cross the Line of Control in Kashmir at an appropriate time. Speaking to a local news agency in Muzaffarabad, Mr. Khan said that the crossing would be made on a mass scale all along 700-km Line of Control and would involve millions of people. Meanwhile, a Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman has said that Islamabad will continue to give moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri militants.

New Karachi Commander Named in Army Reshuffle

BK0603072092 Islamabad THE NATION Supplement in English 6 Mar 92 p 4

[By our correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—Military Secretary of Pakistan Army Lieutenant General Khalid Latif Mughal has been appointed as Corps Commander Mangla.

Major General Mohammad Amin Burki has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed as Military Secretary of the Army.

Maj. Gen. Nasir Akhtar has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed Corps Commander Karachi. He will assume his new office after two weeks when he will have become Lieutenant General.

Maj. Gen. Mahmud Durrani has been appointed Chairman POF [Pakistan Ordnance Factory] Wah.

Former ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] chief Maj. Gen Asad Durrani has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed Inspector General Training and Evaluation.

It has also been learnt that the Prime Minister has issued order for the promotion of a number of senior army officers on the recommendation of the army's selection board.

Defense Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia Visit

BK0203162292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Federal Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah left for Saudi Arabia today as a special emissary of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. He will apprise Saudi leaders about the recent changes in the region and exchange views with them on matters of mutual interest.

PNP Extends Support to Sharif Government

BK0403160592 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] An MNA [Member of National Assembly] and president of PNP [Pakistan National Party], Mr. Bizen Bizenjo, has expressed support and cooperation to the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in his efforts to strengthen democracy and evolve a consensus on major national issues. The PNP president, who met the prime minister in Islamabad today, reiterated his party's fullest support to the initiatives and steps taken by the government for development of the entire country. Mr. Bizenjo said his party has decided to support the government in the parliament and outside in the interest of democracy.

Welcoming the PNP decision, the prime minister assured Mr. Bizen Bizenjo of the government's continued efforts for the accelerated development of all provinces. He expressed particular concern at the lack of interest in the past that hindered progress in Balochistan. The prime minister said he is determined to have a break from the past and help all the provinces and regions move forward in unison and harmony.

In an interview with PTV correspondent M.Z. Sohail after his meeting with the prime minister, the president of the PNP said his party considers the present government a government of national consensus. Therefore, he

said, we are supporting the present government to strengthen democratic institutions. In the past, the country had undergone many experiences and experiments. But this time, we must ensure that the government completes its five-year term and after the elections power is transferred to the next parliament in an orderly manner. This process, Mr. Bizenjo said, can strengthen democracy and put the country on road to progress, which is the need of the hour. Replying to a question, he said the continuation of the democratic process will also strengthen federal structure, which will promote reconciliation among the provinces.

Editorial Views Ouster of Intelligence Chief

BK0403142992 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 Mar 92 p 10

[Editorial:"The Change at ISI, Interservices Intelligence"]

[Text] LT [Lieutenant] Gen [General] Javed Nasir has been appointed Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and the incumbent ISI chief Major General Mohammad Asad Durrani has been returned to the GHQ [General Headquarters] on the eve of his promotion. A report in the press says that the federal government's decision to transfer Gen Javed Nasir from Pakistan Ordnance. Factory, which he had led for just over two months, to the ISI, has come as a surprise to the GHQ. This might mean that chief of the army staff [COAS], General Asif Nawaz, may not have been taken into confidence, or his advice may have been overruled. That the appointment of the ISI chief is the prerogative of the civilian government is understood on all hands. But when the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government posted a retired general to the ISI against the advice of the then COAS, it did create problems made critical by PPP's confrontation with the president. This time however the PM [prime minister] - President joint decision on the appointment will tend to isolate the COAS if he does not agree.

The appointment is being seen as affecting the internal and external policies of the country since the ISI has long enjoyed autonomy of action as a state institution. Externally, it is presumed that the PM-President line on the Afghan policy would be more effectively implemented. Since the Jamaat-i-Islami-Heckmatyar front against the COAS and the ISI had become vocal since the change in favour of the UN peace initiative, the change in ISI is being seen as redounding to the advantage of the rejectionists. General Javed Nasir's "tableeghi" [propagator of Islam] background may suggest that the anti-isolationist stance of the COAS General Asif Nawaz may not be as effectively expressed in the days to come. His appointment also marks a greater approximation of interests between the president and the prime minister thought to relieve presure on Nawaz Sharif with regard to the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, Islamic Democratic Alliance] crisis triggered by Qazi Hussain Ahmed and certain PML [Pakistan Muslim League] elements that support him. This approximation will express itself in the dominance of the presidential writ in Sindh and an IJI retreat in the face of the MQM-wadera [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Sindhi Landlords] alliance there. The efforts made by Speaker National Assembly and the COAS to bring the IJI and the opposition round to a mutual modus vivendi may also make shipwreck-after Nawaz Sharif's decision to save an IJI-PML crisis by moving close to the president. Relations with Central Asia might shift into different gear, away from the IJI line expressed so bravely by Minister of State Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali and the Foreign Office. While the IB [Intelligence Bureau] and the ISI may embark upon a more cooperative relationship after Gen Javed Nasir's appointment (if Nawaz Sharif's visits to Tableeghi Jamaat's [organization working for the propagation of Islam] gatherings have been fruitful), the perceptions within ISI may still take our policies in an anti-West direction, something that will hurt the IJI's liberal economic reforms in the country. Let us hope that the ISI-MI [Military Intelligence] strife that began under the PPP government is not unleashed on the country once again because of a lack of consensus within the troika in Islamabad. Important administrative changes, especially in agencies enjoying autonomy of action, are always hazardous when a national consensus policies is lacking.

Sindh Chief Minister's Death Reported

'Very Acute' Liver Disease

BK0203150992 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Lahore—Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali has a "very acute" liver problem and physicians from abroad are treating him, Health Minister Syed Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi said on Sunday while talking to the newsmen here.

This was the first official, authentic comment by a responsible government functionary who minced no words in describing the actual state of Jam Sadiq's serious illness.

The minister's comment removed the uncertainty created by conflicting statements issued from time to time about ailing Jam's. The minister also denied a press report, saying that Jam Sadiq was suffering from AIDS.

Three-Day Mourning Declared

BK0503011892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] We announce with regrets that Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali passed away last night. He died after long illness at the Jam House at 0305 hours. He was 58. His body will be taken to (Ghas Jam Nawaz) where he will be laid to rest this evening.

The Sindh government has announced a three-day mourning period in the province on the death of Jam Sadiq Ali. The Sindh government has also declared a

public holiday in the province today. Jam Sadiq Ali has left a widow, four sons and three daughters. His eldest son Jam Mashooq Ali is the Sindh minister of state for production.

Political Repercussions Viewed

BK0503045092 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Karachi—Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali died of cardiac failure at 1:30 a.m. on Thursday after a prolonged illness. He had gone into coma earlier at around 11:30 p.m. He was 57.

President Ghulam Ishaq was the first one to be informed of the death of the provincial chief executive through a phone call to the Presidency in Islamabad made by his son, State Production Minister Jam Mashooq Ali.

Till an hour after Jam Sadiq Ali breathed his last the gates of "Ada Mona," his private residence popularly known as Jam House, stayed closed for visitors except a few close friends and relatives.

It immediately triggered hectic political activity as Sindh Assembly will have to meet soon to elect a new leader of the House to govern the affairs of the trouble-ridden province.

Pakistan People's Party Co-chairperson Benazir Bhutto told The News that she has summoned her party leaders to her residence, Bilawal House, at 2:30 a.m. for consultations to decide future strategy.

She, however, reserved her comments about the demise of her arch political rival in Sindh.

The news of the death was conveyed to Corps Commander Lt. General Arif Khan Bangash who was on an operational tour to Pano Akil cantonment through his own channels. The corps commander was reported to be rushing back to Karachi.

In the early hours of Thursday morning arrangements were being made to fly the body of Jam Sadiq Ali to his ancestral home at Goth Jam Nawaz Ali where he is expected to be given a state burial.

The Governor of Sindh is likely to nominate a caretaker chief minister for the province to provide time to the ruling coalition to reach a consensus in electing a new leader of the House.

In view of brewing crisis, the government had already taken measures through the appointment of Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah as Coordination Minister in the province. The Constitution provides for a 14-day period in which the new leader of the House has to be elected. Already there are signs that the de facto Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah may not find it easy to become the dejure chief.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi had met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and assured him that he would be able to win a vote of confidence in the province. He will support his son Ibrahim Jatoi, a sitting provincial minister initially. Later, the post will be given to Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi who is presently a member of the National Assembly and a federal minister.

However, Sayed Muzaffar Hussain Shah cannot be dismissed out of hand. He has the enormous benefit of being the incumbent and will use all the powers at his disposal to assure his ascendency. In the last session of the provincial assembly, he was able to display the strength of the coalition and its support for his own person.

MQM [Mahajir Quami Movement] leader Altaf Hussain has immediately informed his party leaders about the strategy they must adopt after the death of Jam Sadiq Ali. Observers believe that Altaf Hussain has asked the MQM to continue its support to the existing set up headed by Muzaffar Shah.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] adds: Jam Sadiq's body will be taken to Goth Jam Nawaz Ali at about 7 a.m. and laid to rest at 3 p.m.

Bomb Explodes Near Karachi Television Station

BK0403084292 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Karachi, March 3—A home-made device exploded near the boundary wall of Karachi television station causing no injury or damage on Tuesday.

The device was planted between the space of KESC [Karachi Electric Supply Corporation] sub-station and branch of bank ner the boundary wall in a garbage dump, which exploded at 5.45 p.m.

It was a low density homemade GI [galvanized iron] pipe socket device containing binaries.

Moinuddin, deputy director of bomb disposal squad, inspected the site and collected pieces of the pipe.

The motive of planting the explosive device could not be established by the police.

A case under the explosive act has been registered by the police. No arrest was however, reported.

More Than 42 Tonnes of Narcotics Set on Fire

BK0403153892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] More than 42 tons of narcotics were burned at a place 8 km from Turbat in Makran Division today. The heap of narcotics was set alight by Minister for Narcotics Control Rana Chander Singh. Addressing the gathering, the federal minister said the action has been taken to demonstrate to the Pakistani people and the international community Pakistan's determination to eliminate narcotics and smuggling.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Clashes With Government Forces Detailed

'Heavy Casualties' in Attack on Navy Craft

BK0103112892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was reported to have suffered heavy casualties in an abortive attack on Sri Lankan Navy craft on the high seas five miles northeast of Vettilankerni. The joint operations command told LANKANPUVATH that a naval craft carrying persons after leaving from Kankesanthurai to Vettilankerni yesterday were attacked by terrorists in two boats (?fitted) with machine guns. Troops aboard the naval craft retaliated causing heavy casualties among the terrorists and forced them to withdraw. Two security force personnel were killed and two others were injured during the confrontation.

Meanwhile, troops of Operation Wanni Wickreme backed by tanks overran a large terrorist base at Sastrikulankulam in the northern Vavuniya District. During the onslaught on the 1245 terrorist base, the terrorists who attempted to put up resistance later fled after suffering heavy casualties. The terrorists were engaged by aircraft which resulted in a large number of terrorist casualties. The operation is in progress.

Troops of Operation Wanni Wickreme (?the third) pushing northwest in the Vavuniya District met with further success last afternoon when they overran another LTTE base at Tavane Kulam about 14 km from the security forces' forward defense locality and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that troops backed by air, artillery, and tanks [word indistinct] had crushed the LTTE resistance. The bodies of six terrorists had already been recovered.

Anti-LTTE Operation Reported

BK0203105692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Joint Operations Command reported the fact that during the last 24 hours terrorists attacked a security forces observation post deployed outside the forward positions of the Elephant Pass camp with rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire. Troops retaliated inflicting casualties on terrorists. Troops in forward positions observed many terrorists being hit and dragged away by these terrorists. Two soldiers were killed in the fighting. It has now been confirmed that 40 Tigers [LTTE—Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] were killed and another injured during the attack on the naval craft carrying personnel returning after leave from Kankesanthurai to Vettilankerni on Friday.

The Operation of Wanni Wickreme the Third overran a major terrorist base in the Tavane Kulam area after a fierce battle inflicting heavy casualties on terrorists. The forces recovered five bodies of terrorists and some automatic weapons after the fighting. They also found a ditch of about 25 feet in depth believed to have been used for detaining prisoners. At least 30 to 40 terrorists were reported killed as troops of Wanni Wickreme the Third continued pushing northwest and capturing LTTE-held territory in the Vavuniya District. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that infantry backed by helicopter gunships, battle tanks, and heavy artillery caused very heavy LTTE casualties, finding and destroying five strong enemy positions. One soldier was killed and four wounded in the fighting.

Army Operation Continues in North

BK0403114392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The government is now spending large sums of money for reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the restored northeastern areas, which are under the control of the security forces. Chief Secretary of the Northeast Provincial Council S. Ganesanathan told a news conference in Colombo that 80 precent of the eastern areas and 25 percent of the northern areas have now been brought under the civil administration. He pointed that food distribution, house facilities, banks, schools, and postal services are functioning without any disruption in these areas as well as in the areas brought under security control. Responding to a question, Mr. Ganesanathan said that elections could be held in the east by the end of this year. Speaking of the northern province, he said the government agents and officials are overseeing the distribution of food, functioning of health services and schools. All the schools in the north except the Muslim schools are functioning. Only two Muslim schools in Vavuniya and five Muslim schools in the Mannar are functioning.

Troops of Operation Wanni Wickrema-Three are continuing their thrust toward the north in the Vavuniya District. The infantry troops backed by air, artillery, and armored support, including T-85 battle tanks overran another LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] base yesterday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that troops from Kanthan base just before noon yesterday [sentence as heard]. The Wanni Wickreme-Three troops had by last evening advanced 16 km from the security forces forward defended locality at Tandikulam. Official sources said that around 70 terrorists, including 21 women, had been killed so far and three bases and an LTTE office captured in the operation. The source told LANKAPUVATH that combined infantry, artillery, and armored operation with tanks were being used for the first time in battle. The operation coupled with strong air support are proving to be highly successful.

LTTE Storms Army Bunkers, Kills 7

BK0403143992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Colombo, March 4 (AFP)—Heavily armed Tamil Tiger guerrillas stormed army bunkers in eastern Sri Lanka Wednesday and killed seven soldiers for the loss of a "few" of their own men, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) mounted the pre-dawn strike on the forward defence line of the army at Janakpura in Welioya region, attacking it with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms, a military official said.

"Troops manning the front line of bunkers retaliated, killing a few terrorists and injuring several," the military statement said, adding that a search was now underway for the attackers who escaped.

An army officer here said first reports indicated that dozens of Tiger fighters had used a feint to first deceive troops before attacking behind a smokescreen, after which they escaped into the surrounding jungle.

He said 13 soldiers were also wounded in the fighting.

The bunker line had been set up to provide protection to the mainly Sinhalese villagers in the controversial Sinhalese enclave of Welioya, opposed by the LTTE, a military official here said.

Welioya is a relatively new settlement for the majority Sinhalese displaced by development projects elsewhere in the country, and the minority Tamils have bitterly opposed the colonisation there.

Tigers have been accused of attacking the civilians in Welioya, which is sandwiched between the Tamil majority Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, and Trincomalee Districts, prompting troops to provide protection to the villagers.

The surprise attack came as security forces in the neighbouring curfew-bound Vavuniya District kept up psychological pressure on the LTTE by carrying out a series of manoeuvres using newly-acquired military hardware.

The military statement said troops in Vavuniya had found what it called a hastily abandoned LTTE training camp consisting of four huts and three underground bunkers.

Some 3,000 soldiers involved in the tactical moves in Vavuniya were consolidating their gains, the statement said.

Military analysts and diplomatic sources here have described the exercises in Vavuniya as a move to test equipment such as new Chinese-made tanks and prepare for a showdown with the Tigers in the future.

The authorities lifted a curfew in northwest Mannar District Wednesday, but the curfew in Vavuniya and Mullaitivu continued. It was first imposed nine days ago but had been lifted briefly in between.

The LTTE is leading a 19-year-old campaign to establish a separate state in the island's northeast where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. Thousands have died during the violent guerrilla struggle.

The curfew in the District of Vavuniya was lifted Wednesday afternoon, the military said, adding, however, that the curfew in neighbouring Mullaitivu District woudld continue.

LTTE Base Destroyed

BK0503115892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Troops of Operation Wanni Vickrema III have destroyed the Kanthan Base in the jungles of Ammivaittan in the Vavuniya District. The base is 1,000 square meters in extent. It has the capacity to accommodate approximately 75 cadres and appears to have been used by the terrorists for their training. It has four huts, three underground bunkers, and some training aids for higher practices. According to LANKAPUVATH, it appears that the terrorists had vacated this base about 48 hours before the arrival of the government troops.

At (Kotewamadu), Eravur, in the Batticaloa District, police have recovered the bodies of four Tamil fishermen who had been hacked to death by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. The police are conducting investigation.

At (Kutturipitti) in the Trincomalee District, troops clearing the area located a satellite terrorist camp which had been hastily abandoned. Twelve claymore mines, a stock of antipersonnel mines, barrels containing explosives and a stock of dry rations were among the recovered items. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 12 terrorists were killed in the fierce fighting during an attack on security forces at Weli Oya in Mullaitttivu District on Tuesday [3 March]. Among other dead were seven soldiers, many terrorists and five soldiers were wounded in the two-hour battle.

Troops Overrun LTTE Bunker

BK0603112492 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1001 GMT 6 Mar 92

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Ten terrorists and four soldiers were killed in fierce fighting Thursday [5 March], as government troops backed by helicopter gunships, overran newly constructed LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] bunkers at Vettilaikerni in the Elephant Pass area in Jaffna, where the security forces established a beach head during Operation Balawegaya last year.

The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that security forces moved out from their forward positions and conducted a clearing operation in the area of Mullian Kovil. During the operation, troops cleared a few lines of newly constructed LTTE bunkers.

Terrorists who were occupying these bunkers offered stiff resistance but troops with the supporting fire provided by helicopter gunships successfully overran them killing 10 terrorists including an area leader, Ranjan. During the operation, 3 soldiers were killed and 9 soldiers wounded.

100 LTTE Forces Killed

BK0603112692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Operation Wanni Wickrema III was successfully concluded on Wednesday [4 March], having achieved its targeted objective. Colonel Sarath Munasinghe of the Joint Operations Command told newsmen yesterday that the security forces overran three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam] bases. They destroyed the (Wicki Buto) and Kanthan bases after heavy fighting with the LTTE terrorists. Over 100 LTTE men have been reported killed and two security forces personnel died in action. During this operation, the security forces have been able to recover many LTTE documents including a list of 4,742 names of LTTE senior cadres killed during the period from 1982 to October 1991.

Tamil Official To Be Charged in Minister's Murder

BK0503164392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Police have sought the advice of the attorney general to file charges against LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] intelligence chief Pottu Amman who allegedly masterminded the plot to assassinate Minister of State for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne and the JOC [Joint Operations Command] bombing. Pottu Amman and Velupillai Prabhakaran are being charged in India for the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that the evidence against the LTTE intelligence chief for his alleged involvement in the Ranjan Wijeratne assassination and the JOC bombing has been submitted to the attorney general. Meanwhile, the attorney general has filed two separate indictments in the high court of Colombo against Pillai Ambalam Dayaharam alias Roby and Arunchalam Surenderam alias Sahir on three counts under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Premier on Privatization of State Banks

BK0403113992 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, who met a delegation of the Ceylon Bank Employees Union, assured that the government has at no stage decided to convert the two state banks into companies under the Companies Act. The government's intention is to commercialize the two state banks and strengthen them by providing additional capital, and also to meet the loan laws provisioning requirements in terms of the central bank's guidelines and in terms of international banking standards.

The prime minister indicated to the union delegation that this was what is precisely stated in the settlement to parliament. He regretted the fact that various disgruntled elements are distorting the actual position and trying to mislead the people and the international community. He assured them that the bank employees need not have any fears with regard to their future. What the government proposes is to amend the two ("incorporative) statures of the two state banks and provide operational autonomy so that the banks could compete on equal terms with the other commercial banks and tender a better service to the people.

The Ceylon Bank Employees Union delegation requested that they be consulted before the amendment to the law is finalized, to which the prime minister agreed. The Ceylon Bank Employees Union expressed their appreciation of the action taken by the government and assured the prime minister of their fullest cooperation in the restructuring and commercialization program of the two state banks.

Mosad Agend Said Arrested in Colombo

BK0103080092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Colombo, Mar 1 (AFP)—A man who was arrested for alleged involvement in several scams and dubious deals here is an Israeli agent, the Palestinian envoy has alleged.

The man, Adna Abed, is a Mossad agent sent to "blacken" Palestine's image in Sri Lanka, Ambassador Sahir Abdella was quoted by the state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER newspaper Saturday as saying.

"The man identifying himself as Adna Abed and claiming to be a Palestinian is actually an Israeli," the ambassador said, adding that Abed's task was to "damage the friendly relations between Sri Lanka and Palestine."

The OBSERVER said Abed was arrested last week following a complaint by a luxury hotel of non-payment of bills amounting to 543,000 dollars.

"At the time of arrest he was trying to flee Colombo with a woman without paying the bills in the hotel that he had last stayed," it said.

The report said he had also cheated an African diplomat of 3,000 dollars, taken as advance payment for procuring a "brand new" Mercedes Benz car for 10,000 dollars, and three foreign employment agencies of more than 200,000 rupees (4,650 dollars).

The ambassador said the Palestinian mission here had been monitoring Abed's activities following complaints and warned the police about him in October.

The report said the alleged Mossad agent, who arrived in Sri Lanka last July, had brought three women with him who were living in different luxury hotels and "moving freely among the diplomatic and business community in the five-star circuit."

"The ambassador charges that all three of them appear to be working for Abed and, with no visible means of income, they could be collecting money or information or both," the report said.